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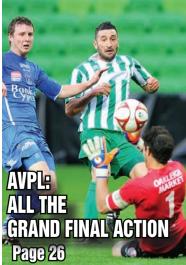












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Socceroos Overcome Resilient Thais

AUSTRALIA



2

THAILAND



1

Match Details

AUSTRALIA:

1 Mark Schwarzer, 2 Lucas Neill (C), 4 Tim Cahill (Kruse 71'), 7 Brett Emerton (Brosque 79'), 8 Luke Wilkshire, 9 Joshua Kennedy, 14 Brett Holman (Troisi 90'+1), 16 Carl Valeri, 17 Matt Mckay, 19 Neil Kilkenny, 22 Matthew Spiranovic.

Goals: Kennedy 58', Brosque 86'. Yellow cards: Valeri 36', McKay 66'. Red cards: None

THAILAND:

18 Sinthaweechai HATHAIRATTANK-OOL, 2 Niweat SIRIWONG, 4 Chonlatit JANTAKAM, 7 Datsakom THONGLAO (C), 10 Teerasil DANGDA, 11 Rangsan VIVATCHAICHOK, 12 Adul LAHSO, 14 Sompong SOLEBOut (Suttinun PHUKHOM 56'), 15 Surat SUKHA Out (Arthit SUNTHORNPHIT 79'), 17 Supachai KOMSLIP, 20 Jakkaphan KAEWPROM.

Goals: Teerasil DANGDA 14'.

Yellow Cards: Rangsan VIVATCHAICHOK 85', Supachai KOMSLIP 88'.
Red cards: None

Venue: Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane Crowd: 24,540

Australia

Thailand

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Group D Standings

Saudi Arabia 1 0 1 0 0 0 1

PWDLFAPts

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Australia's qualification campaign for Brazil 2014 kicked off with three points at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane as Thailand gave the home team a scare but were eventually defeated 2-1.

Despite dominating possession and numerous opportunities on goal, the Socceroos struggled to defeat an opponent ranked 120 on the FIFA World Rankings.

A lethargic first-half performance and an attack short on ideas almost came unstuck against the Thai's, an excellent performance from stand-in keeper Sinthaweechai Hathairattanakool looked like helping the visitors to record an historic win.

Australia left it late, not securing the victory until the 86th minute, Alex Brosque's eighth goal for the national team leaving the stadium in a state of rapturous relief.

When the match got underway Thailand signalled their intent early, Teerasil Dangda testing Mark Schwarzer from distance with a minute barely passed on the clock.

From there Dangda found himself isolated for much of the opening ten minutes, Australia keeping possession well, their first effort on goal arrived in the 7th minute, Tim Cahill leaping to

meet a corner but his downward header was blocked by the War Elephants' defence.

With Australia looking comfortable and in control of the match, if a little one-paced, Thailand sprang a shock on the home side in the 15th minute, a swift counterattack down the right started by a Sampong Soleb intercept led to Jakkapphan Kewprom playing a perfect cross into the path of Dangda in the Australian penalty area, the striker taking his opportunity to give the underdogs the lead.

Brett Holman attempted to draw Australia level but saw his shot from inside the box well saved by Hathairattanakool. The ball having fallen to the Australian midfielder after a mix-up in the Thai defence following a high ball into the box, the home side's stock standard tactic of the opening 25 minutes.

The crowd was on its feet only two minutes later after Cahill and Holman combined down the left, Cahill breaking onto Holman's cut back but was unable to keep his shot down under close attention from the defence.

With half an hour gone little about the flow of the match had changed from the opening minutes, Australia dominating possession and territory whilst Thailand defended stoutly. Aside from a few flashes down the left side of the pitch, Australia showed little indication that they possessed the ingenuity to break down a dogged Thailand defence.

The home side's growing sense of frustration was obvious for all

to see when Carl Valeri needlessly brought down Surat Sukha, earning himself a yellow card.

Thailand were lucky to escape with their lead intact in the 40th minute, Holman catching Soleb in possession, his final ball was lacking though and Josh Kennedy was unable to get a touch before it was once again in the grasp of Hathairattanakool.

Thailand then survived Australia's best chance just before the half. Kennedy knocked a high ball down into Cahill's path, the Everton midfielder skipped past one defender in the box before sending in a shot that drew the best out of Hathairattanakool.

Both managers eschewed the option to make changes at halftime, Winfred Schafer no doubt thrilled with the efforts of his charges, while Holger Osieck persevered with his starting eleven in the hope of better things to come.

Kennedy was causing the defence problems and in the 55th perhaps should have scored but instead got himself tangled on the edge of the six-yard box, unable to find the time to get off a shot.

Australia's play was markedly improved in the second stanza, the plethora of deep crosses so prevalent in the opening forty-five were conspicuously absent as the ball stayed largely on the ground.

In the 58th minute the breakthrough finally arrived, Kennedy made up for his previous effort, turning in a rebound after Matt McKay had a shot saved by Hathairattanakool.

Australia was then denied a

second only four minutes later, match Abdul Balideh ruling that Tim Cahill had fouled Hathairattanakool in his efforts to meet a Luke Wilkshire corner.

Cahill tested Hathairattanakool twice more before leaving the pitch to make way for Robbie Kruse in the 71st minute.

With time counting down Brisbane was to once again be the stage for late drama, Australia finally finding a way past Hathairattanakool with only four minutes of normal time remaining.

Former Brisbane Roar captain McKay was once again heavily, his cross into the box from the left taking an incidental touch off the arm of Kennedy to fall perfectly for a gleeful Alex Brosque to slot a low shot past Hathairattanakool.

While they controlled possession and dominated territory, Osieck admitted the Socceroos under-rated their opponents and played into the Thai defence's hands by playing long slow balls forward.

The German felt central midfielders Kilkenny and Carl Valeri failed to complement each other in the first half, standing too often on the one line, but did think they improved after the break.

He was happier with usual midfielder McKay's game out of position.

"I don't know what his best position is, he's very versatile," Osieck said.

"Where ever I put him he does his job and he did his job again today."

will improve Australia captain Lucas Neill says his side are hoping to learn from their narrow win over lowly Thailand for Wednesday's FIFA World

land for Wednesday's FIFA World Cup qualifier in Saudi Arabia. The Socceroos scraped past the plucky Thais 2-1 in their opening match of Group D in Brisbane, thanks to a late strike from substitute Alex

Brosque.

Neill insists Aussies

Thailand - ranked 98 places below their hosts - threatened an upset when they took the lead in the 15th minute, but goals from Josh Kennedy and Brosque spared Australian blushes. Australia now face a long trip to Saudi Arabia for their next qualifier in Dammam on Tuesday (Wednesday AEST).

Hopefully we can put a bad game behind us and learn and build from it. Lucas Neill, Australia captain

"It's great to come away with three points and now hopefully we can put a bad game behind us and learn and build from it," Neill said. "We're a good team, we just had a bad night and we still managed to win, so is that a sign of a good team? I don't know.

"A bad performance and three points is something we can look back on and say we got away with it and hopefully we'll build on that now and we'll be laughing about it next June when we're in the next round, that's the objective."

Neill also paid tribute to the courageous Thais. "Credit to Thailand, they played some really neat football, but we knew that if we kept putting them under pressure then eventually and hopefully our ability would shine through and just about was enough," he said.

Mark Schwarzer said it was wake-up

call for the Socceroos. "It was one

Schwarzer not happy

of our worst performances for a long time and there are no excuses, but the positive is that we got the three points and we got a big kick up the backside," he said. "That was disappointing but in the second half we got things together and on chances we definitely deserved to win the game.' Everton star Tim Cahill said he could see the positives out of the ragged showing. "We feel as we get more game time together we can be more positive and the most positive thing is that we go to Saudi Arabia with a win under our belt," he said. Australia's German coach Holger Osieck rejected suggestions his players were complacent, but said they almost paid for poor execution. "The intent was good and the boys were far away from being complacent, but sub-

the execution can be a different thing." Next Match

consciously there is a little something

that gives you a feeling," he said. "The

boys are realistic and down-to-earth, but at times what you intend to do and

2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers – Third Round – Group D – Match Day 2 Saudi Arabia v Socceroos

Tuesday, 6 September, 2011 Prince Mohammed Bin Fahad Stadium, Dammam, Saudi

> Arabia Kick Off: 8.30pm

AST (3:30am (AEST), Wednesday 7 September)



Supersub Alex Brosque saves Socceroo blushes and comes to the rescue with only minutes to spare and gets the World Cup campaign off to a winning start. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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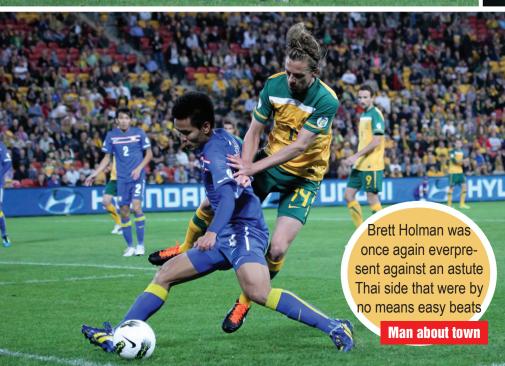


What the?
Thailand take a shock 1-0 lead after 10' thanks to a well worked move finished by Dangda (10).

Pleture Page

BROSQUE

The Socceroos
breathe a sigh of
relief after Alex
Brosque comes to
the rescue.





local boy Matt

McKay holds firm.

England's young guns looking strong



Matt **Sanderson**

England Under-21s outclass their opponents after thrashing Azerbaijan 6-0 but better opposition will await the youngsters.

The squad go top of their group after the first qualifying match for the 2013 UEFA European Under-21 Football Championship. Azerbaijan were not the sternest of tests for the new look team but the efforts of Henri Lansbury and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain provide some real positives for the

Lansbury, another midfielder from Arsenal's academy seems unwanted at the Emirates after going out on loan four times since 2006, and now on loan at West Ham, scored two and set

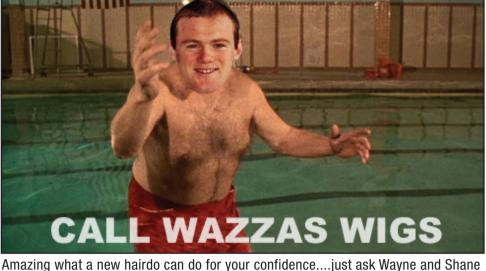
at Vicarage Road. Stuart Peace, manger of the England Under-21 team said: "Henri, in some ways, came of age this summer".

18-year-old, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain who signed for Arsenal from Southampton in the summer also looked sharp and set up an audacious volley for Lansbury. However Arsene Wenger needs to give him some time on the pitch this season to help him toughen

Iceland, Norway and Belgium make up the rest of England's qualifying group and all three will provide a tougher test for the England squad whos passing was sloppy at times. Which, with all due respect to Azerbaijan, a better team would have punished.

Probably the most pleasing thing is that some of the squad are finding themselves in the starting lineup or are enjoying regular appearances in their respective Premier League clubs.

Jordan Henderson, who captained the team on thursday recently



for the range.

made a move from Sunderland to Liverpool and seems to have slotted in nicely at Anfield, scoring his first goal in only his third appearance for the club.

Danny Welbeck, the Manchester United forward started all three of the Champions opening matches in the EPL this season and already has two goals to his name. Although currently injured he will hopefully continue to grow under the stewardship of Sir Alex Ferguson and playing alongside fellow England striker Wayne Rooney. The Under-21s will need to work hard but no matter how the team do in the qualification stages of this tournament, good individual performances may lead to a callup to the senior squad.

Manchester 13 London 3

In the third weekend of the English Premier League the city of Manchester stole the headlines and grabbed all the goals.

While Manchester City destroyed Tottenham 5-1 at White Hart Lane, Manchester United absolutely annihilated Arsenal 8-2 at Old Trafford.

Roberto Mancini's superstars put on a stellar show in north London with Edin Džeko scoring four and Sergio Agüero also on the scoresheet. Samir Nasri fitted in superbly on his debut appearance, providing the assist for three of

Back in Manchester there were even more goals to enjoy as Manchester United humiliated a frail Arsenal side by netting eight.

Wayne Rooney who scored a hat trick looked in the form of his life and Ashley Young just gets better and better in a United top.

Manchester has put down a marker on the EPL this season and they are going to take some

Transfer Window Delivers Deadline Madness



Robert **Davis**

So Kaka didn't arrive at Tottenham, Arsene Wenger went against his usual stubbornness and purchased a few mediocre players (Benayoun being the best, albeit a season long loan), Stoke start mixing with the big boys, Blackburn continue to confuse, and Chelsea may have just got the best buy of the final day.

All in all, it was a bit of a disappointment, in terms of what a fan wants from the bedlam that is transfer deadline day, we all waited for that big name to be announced. He's on a plane, he's on a boat, he's currently getting in a helicopter, Richard Branson is readying his hot air balloon personally. Anything! As a fan, we were right to keep hoping for that.

Ever since Robinho went to Manchester City, and when Tevez and Mascherano joined West Ham, we were all praying that Kaka would go somewhere, anywhere! Instead, we got news of Cameron Jerome joining Stoke, then hoping he and Bendtner could form a formidable partnership with Jon Walters in the holding role. Sunderland ruined that dream by coming in at the last minute for the Arsenal 'superstar'.

Wenger's Splurge

The big move of the day ended up being Mikel Arteta to Arsenal. £10m a fair price for someone who is well known in The Premiership, and has always shown that he is ready for a move to a bigger club with European football every season. I can't help but see this as a gamble though. No one is denying his quality, but with Wilshire out injured, the pressure is somewhat going to be all on Arteta instantly. He has coped with being the forefront of a mid-table Premiership side for years, Arsenal are a different matter altogether.

The other signings made by Wenger on the final day include the relatively unknown left-back

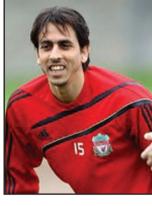
Andre Santos, who, as cover for 'glass man' Gibbs, will be playing every game for Arsenal this season. Heavily capped German defender Per Mertesacker also arrived, who apart from being incredibly tall and a great reader of the game is very very slow, and is also prone to a few clumsy mistakes as well.

Luckily for Arsenal fans, the rest of their back line are all relatively quick, but aren't well known for their reading of the game (Sagna and Vermaelen aside). So apart from being another gamble, this may work out for Wenger. 75 caps for a very good German national team isn't too bad either.

Youssi Benayoun was Wenger's final deadline day gamble, and the best snip of them all. A season long loan for someone who Liverpool and Chelsea both thought was good enough to buy for their teams, the Israeli international is a little underrated. Didn't quite get his chance at Chelsea because of injuries, but was a cult hero at Liverpool, and well liked by the rest of his team mates. Arsenal should produce the best from the playmaker, comfortable on the ball and can chip in with a few goals. He can either play in the midfield three, or up top supporting Van Persie. With the spotlight on Arteta, Benayoun could flourish and be Wenger's best buy of the window.

The pick of the players to leave on the final day for Arsenal were Nicklas Bendtner to Sunderland and Armand Traore to QPR. Traore, who's last act as an Arsenal player was to help them to an 8-2 loss to Manchester United, and Bendtner, the player who said Real Madrid and Barcelona were interested in his services, found himself stuck between Stoke and Sunderland. All in all, I'm sure most Arsenal fans would say it was a good (not great) final day of the window.

Sunderland fans need not worry, the deal for Bendtner is in their favour. A season long loan for someone who if he can recreate his 08/09 form, will turn out to be a fantastic coup for Steve Bruce. Known for being stubborn, Bendtner is a liability, but if Bruce can get him and Gyan to click, they will be a handful. He just needs to get them to pass to each other and





Tottenham also had a more predictably busy deadline day. Players were going left right and centre, but the player they got in was someone who the board, manager and fans all wanted. Fully pledged England international Scott Parker joined from West Ham, whilst a whole host of fringe players left White Heart Lane. The good news outweighs the bad for Spurs fans. Hutton and Jenas left for a Villa team looking at another season of mid-table obscurity, and David Bentley moved to West Ham proclaiming to be the new Lee

The bad points for Tottenham include Wilson Palacios, who was deemed surplus to requirements, a player who firmly had a grip on the Tottenham holding midfielder role was a good squad player to have. He had a few injuries and Santos came in and rightfully took his place after some inspired performances towards the end of last season. With Parker coming in as well, it was clear Palacios was never going to play regularly enough. A good player that Stoke were more than happy to pay £8m for.

Peter Crouch also left for the new apparent footballing haven in a deal worth £10m.

Harry Redknapp picked up Adebayor from Manchester City earlier in the window, and it was clear a striker had to go in the opposite direction. I'd imagine no one wanted Pavlychenko (Real Madrid? Barcelona?) So the choice was between Defoe and Crouch, and with the other two strikers on the books similar to Crouch's style, it would



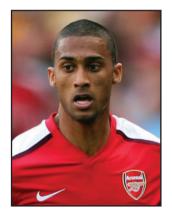
Gooner No.2: Arteta

have been a massive mistake to get rid of Defoe. A big loss for Tottenham, a big signing for Stoke. Crouch scored 12 goals last season and provided 10 assists, with the way Stoke are inclined to play, expect both of those stats to rise.

Dalglish Swoops

Liverpool also had a few last minute deals to take care of as well. Just as Craig Bellamy looked to be joining best friends Joey Barton and Adel Taarabt at QPR, Liverpool came in with an offer that was always going to better OPR's. Last season wasn't exactly Bellamy's best. He failed to take The Championship by storm and looked as if he was on a downward slope. Kenny Dalglish decided to take a chance and try and re-create the form which persuaded so many other managers to purchase him. Liverpool is a different club from the one he joined five years ago, and now a club on the up, we all saw what quality he can bring to a club playing fast attacking football during his time at Manchester

Raul Meireles went to rivals Chelsea in one of the stranger deals of the day. A mixed season at Liverpool left Kop fans wondering what Meireles was all about. He started it playing a deeper role in Roy Hodgson's team, a role he didn't seem comfortable with and never looked like a player worth the £13m they payed for him. Injuries and a new manager meant he found himself in a more attacking role under Kenny Dalglish, and was now starting to look like a bargain and started scoring frequently.



Just plain gone: Traore

Dalglish had other ideas, and seemingly wanted to get rid of anyone and everything that reminded him of the Hodgson era. Meireles has been a frequent bench

warmer this season, and Chelsea's new Portuguese manager decided to bring in the Portuguese international. Would he have been as good as Modric? Probably not, but thats not to say he isn't a very good signing. Chelsea's midfield seems to be lost at the moment, like most of the team. Lampard has started the season like he is actually 33, Essien is a long term injury, and Ramires drifts in and out of games as he wishes. Meireles could be the quick fire solution to this problem. A willing runner, he adds another dimension to the midfield that has been missing this season, and can take a lot of the work off of Lampard's shoulders. A brilliant last minute signing from Andre Villas Boas, and the best signing of the day. The only slight problem with this is it looks like Josh McEachran will have to wait a little longer to get a run in the team, a player who probably should have gone out on loan this season, if not for Essien's

Fulham also decided to splash the cash on FC Twente striker Byan Ruiz. The Costa Rican international scored 36 goals in 61 appearances for the Dutch side, and from what I've seen of him he will not be another Alfonso Alves, who also had a formidable record in the Dutch league (47 goals in 39 appearances for Heerenveen), before arriving at Middlesborough and becoming a laughing stock, also ending Gareth Southgate's reign as

Everton may have lost Mikel Arteta, but gained the great hope for the Dutch national team 4 years ago Royston Drenthe from Real Madrid. A massive gamble, but Leighton Baines and Royston Drenthe up and down the left side for Everton, I could think of a lot

When we all thought Manchester City had taken the biggest gamble of the day/summer/decade by confirming the arrival of 'medical marvel' Owen Hargreaves, we then receive late news that Owen Coyle has found the person who can produce the goal scoring ability of Daniel Sturridge. David NGog, for £4m. I like Owen Coyle, but that is something else. I can't imagine who I could have brought for £4m instead of NGog. The good news for Bolton fans is that it wasn't Jermaine Beckford.

Last point of the day and coincidentally last in The Premiership is Blackburn. Was it Kaka that was bound for Ewood Park? Did Ronaldinho have a change of heart? No, it was Yakubu all along. That's right. Blackburn fans can now look forward to a forward line of Yakubu and Jason Roberts. I'm not denying his goalscoring ability, and to be fair to Blackburn, that's exactly what they need, but after a summer of promising big BIG signings, they have got the goalscoring prowess of Yakubu to lead their line. At least he has some experience in The Championship

Steve Kean did manage to make a very very good purchase on the final day and secured the signature of highly rated defender Scott Dann from Birmingham. A brilliant coup considering Liverpool and Arsenal had shown strong interest. With Samba's strength and Dann's ability to pick out a pass as well as put his body on the line, Blackburn may have a fighting chance this season.

So with deadline day finished, and the panic over until January, there are still many questions left to answer. Will Mikel Arteta be the big saviour at Arsenal? Can Nicklas Bendtner learn to pass in time before people get annoyed? Will Owen Hargreaves actually play? And is Giovanni Dos Santos still at Tottenham? Strange.

Monday 5th September 2011

Coaches axed & appointed amid dressing room allegations



Francis Fields

Colombian coach Jorge Luis Pinto has agreed to take charge of the Costa Rica national team, football federation president Eduardo Li said Thursday.

Pinto will replace Argentine coach Ricardo La Volpe, who resigned from the post in last month.

The 58-year-old Pinto coached Costa Rican giant Alajuelense to two league titles in 2003 and 2004. He was also in charge during Costa Rica's qualifying campaign for the 2006 World Cup for Germany but was fired for poor results—although the team did eventually qualify for the tournament.

The Costa Rican squad is currently in the United States preparing for warmup matches against the U.S. national team played on the weekend and against Ecuador on Wednesday, under interim coach Ronald González.

Speaking of which, former Costa Rica and Mexico coach Ricardo La Volpe returns home to his native Argentina to take up the job of first division side Banfield.

The 2009 Apertura (opening championship) winners are struggling to find form in the current 2011-12 season.

La Volpe, who quit as Costa Rica coach after last month's Copa América in Argentina, returns to the club where he began his playing career as a goalkeeper in the 1970s to take over from Sebastian Méndez, who resigned from the job last weekend.

Banfield a modest club in the southern suburbs of Buenos Aires and got its club name after a British railway company at the turn of last century won their only league title two years ago, are bottom of the Apertura championship standings after four defeats.

They have not scored a goal and conceded seven.

La Volpe, 59, the third choice keeper in Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning squad has taken charge during the past week prior to Banfield's Apertura championship match at home to Arsenal de

Sarandí. "He is a coach who has a relationship with Banfield...After a bad start to the tournament we needed an experienced coach," club presi-

dent Carlos Portell told reporters.

It will be the third time La Volpe. who has spent the bulk of his coaching career in Mexico and steered the national team to the Concacaf Gold Cup title in 2004 and the second round of the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany, takes charge of a team in his home country.

Known as "Bigoton" (big moustache), the outspoken coach noted for his tactical acumen was at the helm with Boca Juniors in the 2006



Daniel Montenegro of Club América of Mexico at a press conference playing down allegations of dressing room theft and sabotage among the squad.

Apertura championship, losing the Millar along with Dinamo Zagreb's title playoff against Estudiantes de Chilean duo of Pedro Morales and La Plata and current champions Vénewly-signed defender Carlos lez Sarsfield in 2007. Labrín. The saga continued in Chile this

past week with Colo-Colo and its

Finally after much speculation

and negotiations, disagreements

from fans and controversy with

reporters, coach and former in-

ternational forward Ivo Basay

has put pen to paper during the

past week with Colo-Colo and ex-

pressed his delight about taking

After much conflict with O'Higgins

who are currently sixth after six

rounds of the Chilean Clausura

(closing) championship for the sec-

ond half of the year. Basay left the

Rancagua-based club atfer Colo-

Colo last month sacked its Argen-

tine coach Américo "Tolo" Gallego.

Basay expressed his delight to be at

the club and said, "it is a dream for

an ex-player to return to a club that I

love with all my heart and I am here

Another Chilean coach who got the

axe in a different manner over the

week was Arturo Salah at Huachipa-

Chilean football club regulations

state that only five foreign players

may be fielded at any given time.

This costly error by Salah of select-

ing substitutes of Argentinean na-

tionality while the match was ongo-

ing has cost the club not only a 3-0

The legendary club and former

international coach made a horrific

blunder on Friday as Huachipato

against Universidad de Concepción

in a Copa Chile cup tournament

At least Arturo Salah will be only

member of the coaching staff leav-

ing the club as his assistant Carlos

Pedemonte and goalkeeper coach

Salah presented his resignation

from the Talcahuano-based club and

the board accepted it immediately.

The southern club is notably recog-

nised for producing a string of tal-

ents such as Colo-Colo and Chilean

international midfielder Rodrigo

Hugo Vidal remain.

loss but sanctions as well.

for the long-term."

to in the first division.

the helm at the Chilean club.

coaching duties.

Basay At Colo Colo

Brasileirão championship update

Finally on the coaching board, former Brazil striker Renato Gaúcho has resigned as Atletico Paranaense coach a day after a home loss kept the club in the Brazilian league's relegation zone. Renato Gaúcho made the an-

nouncement last Thursday after a 1-0 loss to Atletico Mineiro in Cu-He had taken over Atletico Para-

naense in last place in the 20-team standings and led the club to four wins, five draws and five losses in Wednesday's defeat left the club

in second-to-last place with only 18 points from 20 matches. The bottom four clubs are relegated

to the second division of the Brazilian championship and Gaúcho had quit Gremio in June after a series of disappointing results.

Last weekend, the São Paulo state soccer federation has banned a Palmeiras fan group from local stadiums after a confrontation with police ended with two supporters tragically being shot.

The federation says in a statement Thursday that the ban for the Mancha Alviverde group will last until authorities finish their investigation and punish those responsible for the confrontation.

One of the fans shot before Sunday's match against Corinthians in Presidente Prudente remains in serious condition.

The ban comes after police admitted that the shots may have come from officers trying to contain the altercation. The case remains under investigation.

Eight-time champion Palmeiras is the fourth most popular club in Brazil, behind Flamengo, Corinthians and São Paulo.

At the Engenhão, Flamengo missed a chance to get closer to Corinthians after the scoreless draw against Vasco. With Ronaldinho playing from the start, Flamengo played with a man advantage from the 41st after defender Welinton was sent off after receiving a straight red card.

Flamengo hasn't won now in three matches Brazil midfielder Lucas opened the

scoring with a remarkable run from near midfield in first-half injury time. He got past two defenders, the last by sending the ball one way and going around the other, before firing a low shot that found the far corner Ganso equalized in the 86th with a hard shot from the top of the area, finding the left-upper corner. Montillo scored in the 12th and

88th minutes to give Cruzeiro the 2-1 victory over rival Atletico Mineiro, which hasn't won in nine matches and is second-to-last in the 20-team standings with only 15

Recopa Sudamericana champion Internacional lost 2-1 to city rival Gremio at the cross-city derby at the Olímpico stadium in Porto Alegre in a highly entertaining match.

Mexico Apertura

In Mexico, Cruz Azul beat 10-man Pumas UNAM 2-1 at the Olimpico to take over from them at the top of the Mexican Apertura championship on Sunday.

The new leaders have 14 points after seven matches, one point more than Guadalajara and Tigres UANL and two ahead of Monterrey with champions Pumas now fifth on 11 after two successive defeats.

Defender Gerardo Flores put Cruz Azul ahead after 18 minutes when he netted the rebound after Pumas goalkeeper Alejandro Palacios had parried a shot from Colombian Edixon Perea at a corner.

Pumas hit back quickly, equalising four minutes later through Argentine striker Martin Bravo but they had Luis Fuentes shown a straight red card for a foul on Javier Aguino on the hour and Adrian Cortés hit the winner in the 76th from fellow defender Julio Dominguez's fine through ball.

Mexican club giant América has been stormed in some media controversy over allegations the dressing room assistant and gear stewards have been stealing belongings from players and trying to separate the group of players in the squad.

Coach Carlos Reinoso played

down the allegations as well with star Argentinean midfielder, Daniel Montenegro saying that América undergoes heavy pressure on a weekly basis to perform and the players are well aware of it. The immensity of the club and the importance of such an institution means that training hard is essential in order to obtain results and fulfill the demands.

Peruvian football legend Héctor Chumpitaz at the colossal Monumental stadium in

Lima of club side Universitario where he proudly works in the youth setup.

In no way did Montenegro say that such accusations of breaking the unity of the squad shall affect any future performances.

Demon Drink

Universidad de Chile goalkeeper Johnny Herrera during the past week confronted a judiciary of a different type - not the football disciplinary but a court of justice in Santiago. The former international and cur-

rent goalkeeper returned to the game two years ago after drink driving and fatally killing a young 22-year old architecture student. Herrera last week has been charged

for damages and will seek out \$25 million Chilean pesos, (\$AU 105,000) and will require to sign off at a notary firm in order to retake the formal judicial process in early

The blood alcohol level of the goalkeeper while driving was over the legal limit of .46 when he instantly killed the young student. Witnesses of the accident said it was reckless and the family of the victim have spoken out that the vigilence and weekly reportings to the police station despite his ongoing football commitments will never replace the loss of their daughter.

Copa Sudamericana wrap

Universitario de Deportes hold the advantage in their Copa Suderamericana second-round tie after beating Anzoátegui of Venezuela 2-1 away from home.

Peruvian club Universitario led courtesy of Álvaro Ampuero's goal right out on the edge of the box with a left footed strike in the 29th minute of the first leg at the Jose Antonio Anzoátegui stadium. International striker Johan Fano

made it 2-0 when he struck for the visitors five minutes in the second

Armando Maita claimed a valuable strike for the Venezuelan hosts with 15 minutes remaining but after conceding two away goals in Thursday's match, they will struggle to progress from the return fixture in Lima two weeks' time.

Elsewhere, Vélez Sarsfield of Argentina managed a goalless draw in the first leg of their tie away to fellow Buenos Aires club Argentinos Juniors at La Paternal stadium or affectionately the Diego Armando Maradona ground.

The much-afamed breeding ground club for greats such as Diego and Juan Román Riquelme among others played out a stalemate where few opportunities went begging along with a solid performance from Vélez goalkeeper Marcelo Barovero.

The two teams meet again in the return fixture Friday this time at the Fortín stadium in the Buenos Aires suburb of Liniers where Vélez Sarsfield is very strong at home and has all to play for to advance in the continental club tournament of the second semester season.

Godov Cruz on the other hand claimed a valuable 2-2 draw in the first leg of their second round Copa Sudamericana match against Lanús in Buenos Aires last Wednesday.

The all-Argentinian clash pitted two Primera División sides against each other and it was Lanus, playing at home, who opened the scoring through Diego González after just 19 minutes.

Godoy Cruz, the Mendoza-based club were able to get a quick reply though, as defender Germon Voboril found the back of the net just seven minutes later.

The visitors then put themselves in front on 34 minutes as the goals kept coming, with Uruguayan Álvaro Navarro scoring for the first time in over four months.

But they could not leave Lanús with an away win and had to settle for the advantage their two away goals may bring, when striker Juan Neira bagged a stoppage time equa-

The winner of the tie meets the winner of Universitario de Deportes of Peru and Anzoátegui of Venezu-



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Ba∏kan Wran



Alex Milic

A 66th minute Marko Pantelic goal gave Serbia a valuable win over Northern Ireland in the UEFA 2012 Qualifiers.

Serbia played attacking football and was in control of the match from the get go in Belfast and deservedly took the three points which now puts Serbia in third position level on points with second placed Slovenia and with a match in hand. Vladimir Petrovic's men have three matches remaining, they take on the Faroe Islands on Tuesday which then sets up two crucial encounters against Slovenia and Italy in October.

"We played the whole match very well, particularly in the first half when we attacked aggressively and had a few great chances which we didn't take advantage of. We really wanted to scored a goal and at the end we succeeded in doing so. I believe with the performance shown we deserved the win." Serbia Manager Vladimir Petrovic said.

I would like to thank everyone who was always behind us. We have put confidence in Serbian football after all the bad results and lows we hope all the fans come and support us because without them we cannot get past the crucial matches." Goal-scorer Marko Pantelic said.

OFK Beograd celebrated their 100th Birthday with a match against Russian side Dinamo Moskva. The 'Romantics' also named their greatest players, a list which includes Josip Sklobar, former

Wiva

Pepe Lopez

Jose Maria del Nido, President

of Seville FC blasted the Span-

ish Football League administra-

tion for enforcing radio stations

to pay for the right to broadcast

games: "The reality is that they

have chosen a terrible decision

in order to continue widening

the difference between the big

clubs and the rest to charge the

radios..." Stated Jose on public

radio. "For the love of God, are

there any fans not saying that

the league is prostituted, adul-

terated, corrupted? The radio

income will be another scrap to

make the biggest clubs bigger

and the rest even smaller... Our

tournament is not just the big-

gest joke in Europe, but in the

world. It is a third world league

in which two clubs take the oth-

The La Liga TV rights is a hotly

debated topic in Europe. Real

ers' television money."

North Irish eyes smile on Serbia



Pantelic scored the winner in Belfast which keeps the Serbs in the mixer for Euro 2012.

National Team Manager Slobodan Santrac and current Chelsea and Serbia defender Branislav Ivanovic. OFK won the friendly 1:0 against a Dinamo side led by the likes of Kevin Kuranyi.

Partizan has gone through one of its worst weeks in football, following the loss to Shamrock in the UEFA Europa League play offs there has been a war of words between Manager Aleksandar Stanojevic and club President Mr.Djuric. Stanojevic threatened the President and club officials while the club President made it clear that Stanojevic is no longer the Manager of the club which Sports Director Mladen Krstajic didn't take lightly offering his resignation but a few days later bot Stanojevic and Krstajic remained Manager and Sports director with Djuric set to lose his post as Club President. Stefan Babovic's father Marko is the man who is most likely going to replace the controversial Businessman Diuric.

Goals by Milan Badelj, Dejan Lovren and Ognjen Vukojevic gave Croatia a 3:1 win over minnows Malta. Slaven Bilic's men proved to be too much for Malta but despite the win he is still not satisfied with his sides performance

"We lacked control and didn't take the initiative so i cannot be happy with the performance but if you take into account how many vital players we had missing, you could also take this performance as a positive. It will a different story against Israel and especially because they are breathing on our neck. It will be a crucial game for both sides so i expect the uttermost concentration from my lads and that they give 110%. I don't even want to think what will happen if we lose." Croatia Manager

Slaven Bilic said following the win.

They key player for the Croats was midfielder Ognjen Vukojevic who scored and set up a goal.

'I'm pleased with my performance and hopefully i continue to play like this but of course against a side like Malta you expect the level of quality to be different compared to the more competitive sides." Vukojevic said.

I will be heading off to the Balkans on Monday and arrive in Serbia on Tuesday. I will attend the Red Star v BSK match at the 'Marakana' and will be at a Bosnian Premier League match, so for the next couple of weeks the Balkan Wrap will be coming from the 'Balkans' Novi Sad, Belgrade, East Sarajevo, Foca and a couple of more places from where I will try and see as much football as possible.

La Liga "Corrupted" for the benefit of Barca and Real



Madrid and Barcelona each earn approx. 140 million Euros each season from the La Liga TV rights deal, when the next clubs in line, Atletico Madrid, Valencia and Seville only get 40 million Euros in comparison, with some La Liga clubs gettting less than 20 million Euros. The distribution of La Liga TV rights money is in contrast to the English Premier League, where clubs on average earn 40 million Euros, and top clubs like Manchester United only get approx.

60 million Euros, compared to Barca and Real's 140 million

Meanwhile, the Spanish National Team prepared for their upcoming Euro 2012 qualifier against Liechtenstein with an anything but friendly encounter against Chile. Despite trailing in the first half by 2 goals to nil, Cesc Fabregas was the hero for Spain scoring 2 goals in a 3-2 win, with a last minute penalty kick, the winning goal. Chile's Mauricio Isla scored the open-

ing and most spectacular goal of the game, the versatile Udinese midfielder blasted a half volley into the far top corner of the Spanish goal, beyond the reach of Real Madrid Iker Casillas. Eduardo Vargas made it 2-0 for Chile shortly after, but in the second half Spain turned the match around with the introduction of Andres Iniesta. Indeed it was Iniesta who got Spain back into the match, with a clinical strike just outside the Chile penalty area. Iniesta then setup Fabregas for the equaliser.

Fabregas's last minute penalty kick at the end of the match was initially saved, but Cesc easily tapped in the rebound. Iniesta's absence from the starting XI, drew much criticism from Spanish media, calling Iniesta's place in the starting XI "Non-negotia-

After the so called friendly match, Spanish players and Chilean players engaged in altercations, that ironically was seen as a uniting incident of a Spanish team currently divided by hostilities of tension between players of clubs Real Madrid and Barcelona.



With Mike Lilikakis

I play my enemies like a game of

Lets just rewind and remind ourselves of a score that should been settled. Its that 0-0, 1-1, 2-2 or 3-3 that never truly reflected what the outcome shoulda been.

I have elbowed straight to the head that which shoulda bin, t'be shure... and if not, my plebs in front who tra-

versed the front lines with countless frontal attacks can testify to. 20 years of. I feel that these words are

more magnificent than Lee van Cleef and his angel eyes coulda ever been.

to see the up and comerz get slammed after allowing some pleb with half a testicle play football. God forbid that thath player just got signe on the back



Reason being, its been a helluva loooong time since The Tsig put forth any words of value, but that said. lets just sit back and reflect.

Reflection, if not valued are words of substance scorned. Yea, the value has to be measured in value ie: "Diamonds are a girls best friend."

So, now, that the season is over, and thy ways have been put forward as the hypocrisy of Babylonian jest to a Jerusalemian setting forth; are you happy with what YOU have produced? That is was YOUR contribution ridgie didge? A1...100% full on coulda won the league on my own?

When I was born, there was nothing that was promised, and there was no hope beyond the prophecies of Nostradamus.

So. eliminate. consolation comes through the element of being hard to find beyond piece of mind elimenating through the consolation that silence is your best friend. WHAT?

Does your output reflect on your circumstances mate?

Have you performed according to your ability or your paycheck?

See, where I come from, old school wog that I am, we played for the love of the game, and NEVER for the pay.

Yet I hear and see that the lay player who never sees past the night where they get a free light beer and pamper, accords ANY performance worth not-

I miss Stabbers, Clubbers, Bloodnuts and a One Touch Tsaltas which nestled into the back of the net when you had

A Psarros or a Rizo, a Fak never lookin back perchance a Dimo or Papa smackin a crack from 30, and yet I gotta read 3rd hand that some 1st or 2nd Divi player did something special on a hump, thereby according to the world that they have achieved Beckham -like stardom and that that said player is about to be transferred to a Premier league club from an up and comer who has forked out squillions to make something special happen. Geeperz I weep of his old man pumping five grand into the club just to see his boy play seniors instead of rezzies. Am I missing something? Gimme a Kit Kat. Most of v'all have no clue as to a Scooby frikkin Doo and wherien he lost his Scooby snacks outside his drug addled lack of state of mind to where the cash goes after a Thursday night transaction to ensure that 'my boy can take this stupid club all the way'



T'be shure, I have only been accorded a Sly Stallone this week as apparently there was a 'Grannie Final' in the VPL this weekend. At point of publishing, I dunno who won, the score etc....and yet my sympathies can go either way because the coach of one club is a dear friend of mine, and the other gave me sound advice when I was in a flux. Some of the players also reserve a soft spot, as I have either coached or entertained them in an addled state; so I will leave thee with this thought.

I never took the piss out of anyone that didn't already have it coming.

I never bad mouthed a club that didn't accord truth and righteousness.

I never took myself seriously, thus allowing myself the courtesy of being captured like a bounty to those who need a quick fix of cash.

In the end, you get your photo splashed on the wall of a club that could be here one day, and buried the next.

In the end, you can fall foul of a coach, committee, sponsor, and thus be resigned to scratching more than sand whilst looking for crabs.

BUT, take this dear reader....I have travelled a yeah bitter of this unbelievable planet and seen games and shames, peeps and sheeps, copped unwarranted slack and tipple.

I will continue, as ever to slam the institution, rewrite the constitution, and bad mouth any solution which is less than a band aid which Bono himself would never succumb U2 to.

I am thy friend. Not some boutso kefalo who has issues with hierarchy because of what nightmares desire to rape thee with. Footbal is bliss providing thou tretest it with the proper accord of a 'beautiful game', and NO MORE!

As always, I remain;

Ipso Facto Gloria in Excelsis Deo Miserere Dominus

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With Leroy Robinson in the UK

s the transfer deadline approached, the activities of Messrs Harry Redknapp and Arsene Wenger got me to thinking about the role of a football coach/manager. After the 8-2 drubbing at the hands of Manchester United Arsene Wenger got an absolute pasting from not only the press but his own supporters.

In many respects football coaches are like politicians. They manage expectations and often seem to inhabit a world far removed from everyday reality - especially when talking about their

However, just like the Mps they can be affected by popular opinion. Monsieur Wenger is usually bulletproof when it comes to criticism and as such it was hard to see Arsenal's activity as anything other than panic from a man who'd deluded himself his team are better than they actually were. That was until early last week when something came over him and Wenger, like many other coaches, gained precious popularity by spending money before the transfer deadline closed.

But will the transfers dealings of Wenger and his London counterparts be enough to ensure the things money can't buy – wins?

Arsenal Lead The Way

Starting with the team that was one of the busiest in the 48 hours leading up to the transfer deadline seems only right. Arsenal signed Per Mertesacker, Mikel Arteta, Yossi Benayoun (loan), Andre Santos and Park Chu-Young. Leaving aside the absurdity of waiting until the last minute to do your shopping, the signings represent a departure from Wenger's usual policy of buying under

In fact, all the players are over 25 and have considerable experience. Much has been written about whether they are good players and whether they constitute good signings – especially in the case of injury-prone Arteta who was signed to four-year deal at the age of 29. People are really missing the point when they ask if these guys are good players which undoubtedly they are.

The real question is will they fulfil Arsenal's need, and will they help the club to reach their objectives of qualifying for the latter stages of the UCL and finishing in the top four next year?

That may sound a daft question, especially as I've conceded Arsenal have signed some good players. However, bear this in mind. Wenger himself admitted it takes six months to a year for a foreign player to acclimatise to our league. Samir Nasri took about a year to adjust as did Luka Modric. These new players will need to adapt quicker than that to have an impact - and I can't see it happening.

Andre Santos, as anyone who saw the Copa America in Argentina will testify, is far better going forward than he is as a defender. Yes, the same has been said of Daniel Alves of FC Barcelona, but Alves has speed to compensate for his defensive shortcomings - something which Santos

At The Emirates Stadium Santos will no doubt have free reign to maraud down the left, but it's away from home where he'll struggle. Mertesacker, at 6' 6" is a man-mountain of a defender. This should help combat Arsenal's fallibility at corners. His biggest problem is he is slower than an old age pensioner with arthritis. In contrast to Santos, Mertesacker's problems could well come at home, when teams leave a pacy striker upfront and play of the counterattack. If he's left isolated one on one then he's a red card waiting to happen. The antidote to this horrific scenario is a fit and healthy Thomas Vermaelan. If they both stay healthy Arsenal have a central defensive partnership that could be one of the best in the league.

Arteta is an intriguing player. He's the one player who I sense has gotten Arsenal fans really excited. He's everything they want in a player: he has Premier League experience, is technically gifted and can play in the position vacated by Cesc Fabregas. The trouble is I think they've been rather blinded by the highlight clips of Arteta on Sky Sports News. Although Arteta is good, he also has a tendency to go AWOL in big games. He is also more of a playmaker than Fabregas so fans shouldn't expect too many goals or assists, as his stats bear out. Since 2007-08

London's Great Transfer Scramble: **Inspiration or Desperation?**



Shop 'til you drop: QPR boss Neil Warnock welcomes Anton Ferdinand to Loftus Road. Is Beckham next on the gaffer's list?

he's scored 20 goals and gotten 12 assists - a quite pitiful return. One must bear in mind that Everton are not Arsenal and should improve those stats. The main gripe about Arteta is his injuries (he's started on average about 23 games a season since 2007-08). Though his signing is a good one my judgment comes with a huge disclaimer: he needs to have four seasons starting 25+ league games and get 10-15 assists a year if he is to be classed a success. The problem is I'm just not Evertonians were so sad to see him go.

Park Chu-Young and Benayoun are classic squad players. Benayoun cannot play in the same midfield three as Arteta and Wilshere (when he's fit) and the Korean won't displace van Persie. However, they both provide an alternative for cup matches and when there are a few injuries. The upside of guys like Benayoun and Arteta is that they won't need a year to get accustomed to the league. Hopefully, for Wenger's sake, neither will his other signings, or else they'll be staring the Europa League in the face come this time next year.

Has 'Arry Done it Again?

If Arsenal fans were satisfied with their transfer business, Spurs fans had every right to greet the news of Scott Parker's signing a little mutedly. As demonstrated in the 5-1 loss at home to Manchester City, Spurs are a long way off the pace when it comes to challenging for the league title.

Fans were expecting a little more action from Harry Redknapp and Daniel Levy. In the end they got action, but not of the type they expected. Out went Crouch and Palacios to Stoke along with Jenas (loan) and Hutton to Aston Villa. This is great business for Spurs, but has to be balanced up by the ongoing problems within the squad. Before the deadline they were deficient at right back, left back and centre back - so it doesn't take Stephen Hawking to guess that Spurs, who struggled to score goals last term, are heading for a fall of massive proportions due to their weak backline. The signings of Scott Parker and Emmanuel Adebayor (loan) might please Redknapp, and the departures of Crouch and Palacios might please Levy, but Spurs fans shouldn't be too shocked if the team toils in mid-table, in

what will likely be Redknapp's final season in charge before he takes the England job.

In West London Chelsea and Fulham bought Raul Meireles and Bryan Ruiz respectively. Anyone who didn't get the chance to watch Ruiz at FC Twente in Holland will be able to watch one of the best all round strikers I have seen for a while

The 26 year-old is great in the air and is an excellent finisher who can work outside the box. Ruiz, if given decent service will score goals that can get Fulham to a cup final. Meireles is a player Chelsea coach AVB knew briefly from his FC Porto days. He might give them something a little different, but one can't help feel that their failure to capture Luka Modric means their squad is lacking a little creativity and will struggle to challenge for the league.

In what was perhaps one of the shock transfers of the summer. EPL bad-boy Joey Barton joined Queens Park Rangers. He said he was impressed by the ambition shown by the clubs' new owner Tony Fernandes. To be quite frank, every player uses that stock phrase when they join a new club. However, it seems as

though QPR have been keen to prove that Barton is no liar. Ok. the signings of Anton Ferdinand and Shaun Wright-Phillips didn't set the back pages alight, but for a newly promoted club to acquire Premier League experience is no mean feat, especially when the other promoted clubs sat on their hands as the deadline closed. And rumour has it that none other than David Beckham will sign for the club when his contract with LA Galaxy expires later this year.

A spokesman for the club said to The Sun, "Tony promised Neil Warnock plenty of support in the transfer market and proved that in the recent window...but bringing Beckham back to England would top the lot - and it's not a pipe dream."

I don't believe it for one moment - his family are settled in Los Angeles - but it does mark out their ambitions. Whatever happens they are probably the London club with the best chance of achieving their goals this sea-

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VPL Season 1993

With Roy Hay

ulleen won its first Victorian Premier League title in 1993. It had come very close in the inaugural season of the VPL in 1991 finishing behind Juventus only on goal difference. There was no finals series that year. In 1992 it was second again to North Geelong and lost the Preliminary final to Juventus. So it was third time lucky in 1993. It was some consolation for the failure of the club to secure a place in the National Soccer League.

John Hodgson, who died recently, was president of the Victorian Soccer Federation in 1993 and he commented on the closeness of the competition that year and that the league boasted the best players outside the NSL.

Bulleen had an excellent season topping the ladder with 37 points, four ahead of Fawkner and North Geelong, with Sunshine George Cross and St Albans making up the top five. The Georgies easily accounted for St Albans in the elimination final by four goals to nil, John Markovski and Brian Roberts each scoring twice. Fawkner beat North Geelong by a goal to nil to qualify for the semifinals, and North went down again to the Georgies in its semi-final. That was a cracker of a game at Smith Reserve with David Cervinski twice equalising for North and 'Jonesy' Markovski blasting home the decisive goal in extra time, followed a minute later by another from Con Pappas just to

Bulleen downed Fawkner by twoone in the Major semifinal also at Smith Reserve. It was very tight until Anthony Grbac broke through in 67 minute and Andrea Zinni added a second in 75 minutes. Carlos Retre's penalty in the 89th minute came too late for a Fawkner revival. In the Preliminary final Retre was the hero with a goal in extra time to decide the battle with the Georgies.

So the two best teams of 1993 olayed off in the Grand Final at Middle Park on 19 September. Most of the coaches that year had predicted a Bulleen win and so it turned out. Andy Bozikas had honed his talented group to peak at the right time. Two key signings had strengthened the side. Jeff Olver was picked up from Heidelberg and Bulleen only

conceded 19 goals in 28 games, less than half of any other team in the league. The loss of Darren Tuck and Con Pappas was compensated by the recruitment of Pat Giaccherini from Thomastown. Andrea Zinni came from Preston on loan.

Ken Murphy had taken Fawkner to the final the hard way and he had a powerful and experienced squad at his disposal. Eddie Kuzman and George Karkaletsis from North Geelong's title winning side in 1992 linked up with Adrian Pender, Chris Jackson and Brian Bothwell in a sound combination. Carlos Retre won the golden boot with 20

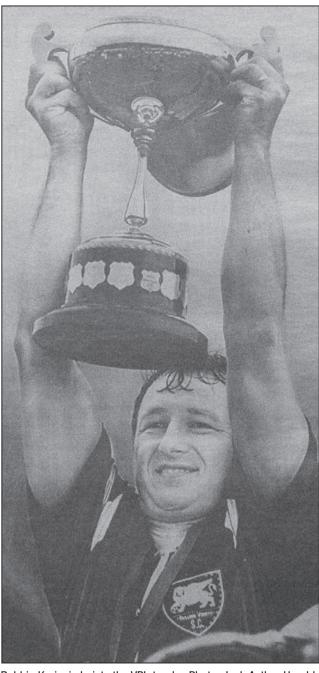
The first half of the Grand Final was goal-less but not without incident. Brian Bothwell and Sebastian Emmanuele both headed wide from close range following crosses by George Karkaletsis. Kenny Murphy was disappointed that Bulleen sat back and defended, but Robbie Krajacic responded that Bulleen were confident that if they could survive the first half barrage they would eventually come out on top.

Bulleen broke through three minutes after the break when Scott Patterson scored. The big striker put away the rebound after Fawkner keeper Eric Janssen cannoned into Andrea Zinni trying to clear the ball. Fawkner seemed to have got back on terms only four minutes later when Manny Anezakis and Chris Jackson forced the ball into the net, but Eugene Brazzale ruled that they had impeded Jeff Olver in

Frank Valentic added a second in 65 minutes. It was a simple finish after good lead up work by Zinni and Paterson and that really sealed the game for Bulleen. Adrian Pender was awarded the Jimmy Rooney medal for an outstanding defensive performance in a losing side.

Robbie Krajacic picked up the trophy and pointed out that it came at the end of six years of hard work for Bulleen and that several of this team-mates had also put in several years in the cause. It is interesting to speculate what would have happened had Bulleen been given the NSL place, for Juventus struggled for a couple of years at the top level and were relegated in 1995.

Bulleen's first VPL title



Robbie Krajacic hoists the VPL trophy. Photo: Jack Astley, Herald Sun, 21 September 1993.



Jimmy Rooney presents Adrian Pender with the medal named in his honour after the 1993 Grand Final. VSF finals program 1994.

Grand Final Teams

Jeff Olver, Frank Valentic, Michael Vesnaver, Robert Krajacic, Tony Marsan, Michael Branov (Pat Giaccherini 62), Tom Sonsini, Anthony Grbac, Andrew Zinni, Bill Tsiakos, Scott Patterson. Coach: Andy Bozikas.

Fawkner

Eric Janssen, Joe O Donnell (Mario Crivari 89), Eddie Kuzman, Jim Goulis, Manny Anezakis (Milan Vlatkovic 80), Adrian Pender, Chris Jackson, George Karkaletsis, Seb Emmanuele, Brian Bothwell, Carlos Retre. Coach: Ken Murphy.



Andy Bozikas. VSF finals program 1993.



John Hodgson, President of the VSF, 1993. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University



Program cover from the 1993 finals. Eddie Kuzman of North Geelong heading in the 1992 final. Source: VSF finals program 1993.



Bulleen squad 1993. VSF finals program 1993.



Carlos Retre (left) and Robbie Ferla. VSF finals program 1993.

Taseski Gets a Taste for the Big Time



Kliment Taseski- Melbourne Heart's Driven and Competitive, Versatile

In Melbourne Heart's inaugural season in 2010 they signed versatile Midfielder Kliment Taseski from then Victorian Premier League (VPL) champions Altona Magic. Kliment was born on the 27th of May in Melbourne to Macedonian parents. Ilija Taseski, Kliment's father was also a Footballer and taught Kliment the values and the right attitude to be a successful Footballer.

Kliment started playing Football in Noble Park where he spent seven years before moving to South Melbourne to play one season for their Under 16's. Kliment's reputation grew immensely when he played in the VPL with Altona Magic during the 2009 season. During that season Altona finished runners up to Dandenong Thunder before winning the Grand Final against Thunder in the a penalty shootout. Kliment won the Jimmy Ronney Medal which is awarded to the best player on the ground in the Grand Final. His Grand Final appearance caught the eye of Melbourne Victory who signed Kliment up for their 2009/2010 National Youth League (NYL) squad.

Due to National Team call ups to the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) U19 Youth Championship in 2009 and to gaining a call up with the U20's for a trip to South America he was unable to establish himself in the Victory line-up. However he is still honoured and satisfied that he got to represent his country.

At the start of the 2010 season Kliment returned to Altona Magic where he played the first six weeks before signing a multiyear deal with new A-League comers Melbourne Heart. A move which he was grateful of and an opportunity

Despite only making four substitute appearances for Melbourne Heart in their inaugural season Kliment remains hopeful that he can contribute to a successful team this up and coming season. If he cannot make the senior squad then the NYL is always a possibility as Heart will make their debut in the NYL.

I sat down with Kliment to talk Football, Melbourne Heart, VPL, values, attitude and much, much more.

DQ: Earliest Football Memory:

KT: Probably playing with my friends at a Noble Park soccer match. My Dad was involved there and I used to go there and watch him. That would probably be it. Either that or watching SBS The World Game on a Sunday. When they used to show the Serie A for like six

DQ: Football idols:

KT: I'd have to say Zidane for the way he played. Yeah probably he would most likely the one I've looked up to in terms of playing style.

DQ :Goal in Football career:

KT: It be to initially what I'd say would

baller. Play the best Football that I could possibly play. Where it takes me is what people usually say is there goal. I think it can take me to the highest league.

DQ: Have you go any preference for which league?

KT: Not really. Not particularly.

DQ: What made you want to play

KT: I think being part of a team is one of the things that made me want to keep playing Football. The comradery you have sort of with your teammates and I'm very competitive so that I think was a drawing card for me and sport in general. Particularly Football because of influence from my parents , from my dad.

DQ: Which club do you wish to play

KT: To be honest I can't say I have any one particular preference. Being able to play in any of the top flight competition weather it will be in Spain, England or Germany. Any of those countries really would be good. Maybe Barcelona just to see Messi play.

DQ: So you don't have a favourite club that you support?

KT: Yeah look I support Liverpool. I watch their games in the Premier League. I wouldn't go play for them because I like to watch. Like to watch Barca even more so maybe I'm lying.

DQ: What are your strengths?

KT: Competitiveness, General attitude I think towards the game.

DQ: Is that it? haha

KT: Well yeah am I meant to provide a list? My left foot, my right foot, dribbling, crossing, mobility. Haha, I think it's my attitude towards Football because end of the day you know your strengths are what they are but if you have a good attitude towards it you can always improve regardless of what it is so I'm sort of never happy which make my good things better and my potential weaknesses better as well.

DQ: What are you weaknesses?

KT: Is this a question that has to be an-

DQ: Do you think you have any?

KT: Yeah absolutely. Something I can work on. Weaknesses something that imply that everyone is better than you are at it like in attitude. I don't think that is the case so just in terms what I can get better at personally.

DQ: How well do you think you have done this past season in the VPL for South Melbourne and in the A-League season with Melbourne Heart?

KT: For heart it was. I didn't really get opportunity to make that much of an impact on the pitch in games. Only having four appearances off the bench which I really can't give you an evaluation of how well I did seeming I didn't play too many games. But with South Melbourne it was a different story because at least I got to play more games. Maybe I did well I think. I contributed to the team's efforts to eventually getting into the finals before I went to Melbourne Heart.



In action for South Melbourne. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?

KT: I Practice everything individually. So like I practice my crossing, I'd do extra end of training. I make sure I always do something to fix anything I think that could be better. So a lot of the time I'll do extra crossing. Pass and dribble. Anything like that.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the coach/manager?

KT: Not particularly. I think it's a matter of yourself knowing what the right thing is to do and trying to impress yourself rather impress some individual. I think that is the best way of looking at it because then you never cheat If you are trying to impress yourself.

DQ: Do you feel pressure to perform?

KT: There is always pressure to perform but it is usually from myself than anyone else. I qualify that though that there is always a good pressure, a positive pressure, pressure I put on myself of my want to play well.

DQ: Are you happy with your current club situation?

KT: Yeah. Well I'm at a club that is in A-League. A quality environment regarding to the club. So very happy to

DQ: You only made 4 substitute appearances for Melbourne Heart. Are you satisfied or disappointed with

KT: I'm not satisfied by no means what so ever. I want to be able to participate and one of the earlier questions was if you think you did well? I can't answer that question because I didn't play too many. So of course I want to be able play games to have influence on the

DQ: You have played 12 games for South Melbourne in the VPL. You must be pleased with the amount of game time since you didn't get a lot for Melbourne Heart in the A-League?

KT: The purpose of me going on loan from Heart's prospective. I needed some competitive game time. Persongames. The club was really supportive as well. Good environment to be in there as well, very professional. Especially under Eddie Krncevic who was also good to be under I guess.

Scoring the winning penalty kick for Altona Magic to clinch

DQ: What did you learn from your experience with South Melbourne in the VPL?

KT: I learnt that it's important to play games because at the end of day you can train as much as you want but you learn the most when playing games. I don't think I learnt that. I knew that before the season but it was something that was iterated.

DQ: South Melbourne were deducted three points for playing you when you weren't registered. So can you please explain what happen here?

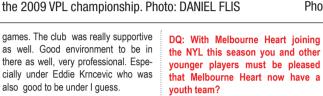
KT: What happened was that my loan was up to a particular date. After which South Melbourne asked to have me for a further game. Melbourne Heart gave the approval for that and then what has happened is that by some fault somewhere I wasn't reregistered. So I was already registered with South Melbourne and I wanted to be reregistered for the next game. But apparently what happened I didn't know about it obviously. I went out there having no clue about that. I think they were given the three points back. I'm pretty sure they were given the points back. It might have been error on someone else's behalf. the Football Federation rather not club I'm not sure.

DQ: What are you hopes for this upcoming A-League season?

KT: Hopefully to be able to contribute to a successful season with Heart. Get us into the finals and take another step as a team towards success.

DQ: How is the pre-season coming along for you personally? KT: Yeah it's been pretty good. It's been

quite long which is meant that training over the period of time has been different than what a normal preseason might be but as well as having its negatives it's also had some it's benefits. Along the preseason it has allowed team to get closer together and understand each other better. To understand what the coach want us to implement iln our playing style.



KT: Yeah look it provides the opportunity to play games as I mentioned it is important. Ideally the best situation for any young player is to be playing competitive games in the A-League rather than Youth League however if that is not possible the fall back is the youth league team.

DQ: So this season you are going to start in the youth team? KT: Oh, I don't know about that. It's not

if you are told at the start of the season you will be in the youth team. I'm on a senior contract so I am a senior player. Whether or not I am given games in the senior team it will depend on how the season goes. It's something I can't

DQ: You made your first appearance for Melbourne Heart against English Premier League side Everton. What can you tell us of you experience

KT: It was amazing. Being able to play against players that you usually watch on the tellie. That's a cliché but a true one. Had a chance to shake hands with players on the pitch. Which was a good start into professional Football for

DQ: Do you think your time at Melbourne Victory was affected by the National Team call ups?

KT: I don't think so in any sense. I think being able to play for The National Team was anything was a way to show myself off rather than a way to have affected me by seen by the club. Definitely opportunity and a good one at that to play at a higher level.

DQ: What did you learn from your experiences in Asia and South America with the National Team?

KT: The main thing could be said about South America is the technical ability all over the park is very high. They have an abundance of players to be able to pick a team that would almost be equal to each other. Their tactical awareness is very good from them and that is something that I took the most from the South



Photo: DANIEL FLIS

In comparison to the Asians who they were pretty good. In a sense they were very good technically but technically good as individuals rather than collectively. So in comparison you can see the difference in Football smarts. But they had tactical awareness as well.

DQ: How do you feel that you have swapped Victory for Heart?

KT: I had a opportunity that I'm very happy with. Given an opportunity to be part of senior A-League team.

DQ: Your father Ilija Taseski was a Footballer too. What have you learnt

KT: Main thing I can take from him is the values he put in me while I was young. Football has done a lot to sort of provide something parallel that you learn from it. But he in particle taught me the values I have today as a person.

DQ: Would you consider playing for Macedonia if you got the opportu-

KT: Ausralia is definitely my country. I was born here, grown up here and I call

DQ: You won a championship with Altona Magic while also winning the Jimmy Rooney medal for best player in the final. You must be grateful for what Altona Magic have done for

KT: Actually it was a good platform for me. I was given an opportunity to play throughout the year. Eventually by the end of it I established my spot as a starting player and was helping the team win games and eventually the title so more than grateful for what Altona did for me.

DQ: Unfortunately in 2010 Altona Magic were relegated. How do you feel about that?

KT: I was disappointed, absolutely. I was tracking them throughout the season as well and there were some difficulties they encountered in the season which sort of resulted in them being relegated. It was difficult to see especially having the opposite of that the season prior, I think that compounded the feel-

Many thanks and best of luck with the new season.

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Monday 5th September 201



Mike **Salter**

And so, in the end, it was Sydney Olympic after all. The competition leaders held onto their lead, and capped their season with a confident 3-0 win over APIA-Leichhardt, with striker Alex Smith, mysteriously returned from his stint with Gold Coast United, scoring the opener. Sydney United, meanwhile, struggled to make an impression against fourthplaced Blacktown City, and ultimately went under thanks to Matt Lewis's goal early in the second half.

The top five, in fact, remained unchanged going into the finals. Sutherland held off a late fightback by relegated Bankstown to post a 3-2 win, which will see them face off against United next week. Bonnyrigg, meanwhile, remained in fifth spot after squandering a first-half lead to lose 2-1 at Rockdale. Details of that match can be found be-

Elsewhere, three second-half goals saw the South Coast Wolves defeat Marconi away, while Manly United signed off with a 2-0 win over Parramatta. Both Manly and the Wolves have performed well above expectations in 2011.

Rockdale City Suns 2-1 Bonnyrigg White

Brian Brown's star-studded Bonnyrigg came to the Ilinden Sports Centre looking for three points to sneak ahead in the finals reckoning, but those plans evaporated in a second-half meltdown which provided a memorable end to the season for Rockdale fans.

After a barren initial period, Bonnyrigg applied the early pressure. Brendan Gan, working a neat one-two with Bonnyrigg right-back Takuya Murayama, planted the ball over the bar from 15 yards in the 16th minute. A minute later Alex Canak fed Brad Boardman in the middle, who got a shot away under pressure only for Dion Shaw to hold cleanly. Rockdale managed a chance of their own when a corner was nodded back to Jason Naidovski, but the former Newcastle Jet planted his header well

OLYMPIC CRUISE HOME, UNITED FALTER



Last day of the season action from the NSW Premier League between Blacktown City and Sydney United. Inset: Blacktown celebrate Matthew Lewis' winning goal in their 1-0 win. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/ COURTESY FNSW

24 minutes into the half, Bonnyrigg got their goal. Following a foul on Alex Canak just outside the area, Chris Tadrosse struck a well-flighted free kick against the post. In the ensuing play, the ball was floated across to Gan at the far post, who cushioned a deft header into the path of an onrushing Brad Boardman, who tapped the ball in with ease. Almost directly after the restart Rockdale thought they had equalised when Jason Naidovski side-footed home Pece Apolevski's right-wing cross, but the goal was controversially ruled out for

A flying header from Gan was held by Shaw just after the half-hour, as Bonnyrigg continued to stretch the home defence. Just before half-time it was Rockdale who nearly added to the

score, however, when a neat turn and pass from Naidovski released Sash Tirovski in the inside-right channel; his rising shot forced Andrew Bazi to react alertly. James Monie, too, nearly equalised in first-half injury time after driving his way through the Bonnyrigg

Rockdale left-back Shay Spitz failed to make the most of a half-chance soon after the restart, and went close again when his ambitious free kick from deep on the left almost caught Bazi out at the Ex-Melbourne Victory striker Nathan

Elasi wasted a superb chance to extend Bonnyrigg's lead when a Rockdale defensive error allowed Gan to tee him up perfectly. From only eight yards, he swept his shot wide of goal.

Around the hour mark, some virtue be-

gan to ebb out of the game as both sides struggled with the uneven surface and the blustery conditions. Then, out of the blue came a Rockdale equaliser.

Rockdale's retiring captain Paul Dee, fittingly, provided the through-ball, which narrowly missed Naidovski but not Josh Lawson at the far post. The former Olympic man got his knee to the ball, which drifted across goal into the path of another Belmore alumnus, Marino Musumeci, who headed home.

Musumeci nearly had two in the 76th minute when a crisp cutback from Pece Apolevski reached him in the centre; with no time to pick his shot, he stabbed wide. The visitors were now looking distinctly rattled, and Tirovski again tried his luck from outside the area as Rockdale's initiative continued. Bazi watched the ball fly past his far post

Sunshine Coast wins QSL NYL title

with some relief In the 80th minute, against the odds

the hosts hit the lead. A careless touch from Murayama gifted possession to Spitz, who duly surged down the left and crossed; Musumeci was again the man on hand to plant a header past Bazi. Murayama attempted to atone soon after the goal with an enterprising run on the right, but his eventual shot was held without trouble by Shaw.

With the minutes ticking away, Rockdale substitute Adrian Karakolevski missed a chance to make the points sure when he assumed himself to be in an offside position after Monie's flick-header had given him a clear run to goal. It did not matter: Rockdale claimed the three points, giving former APIA and Blacktown midfielder Dee a memorable farewell.

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 17: FIRST GRADE: Marconi Stallions 1 (Nathan Jagelman 17m) South Coast Wolves 3 (Mark Picciolini 57m ean Robertson 65m Christopher Nathanie 77m), Manly United FC 2 (Scott Balderson 68m Matthew Sim 91m) Parramatta Eagles 0, Bankstown City FC 2 (Hussein Salameh 50m Zlatko Joseski 90m) Sutherland Sharks 3 (Matthew Bailey 3m Christopher Price 56/83m), Sydney United 0 Blacktown City FC (Matthew Lewis 53m), Rockdale City Suns 2 (Marino Musumeci 72/81m) Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Bradley Boardman 25m), Sydney Olympic 3 (Alexander Smith 19m Chris Trian tis 26m Ibrahim Haydar 67m) APIA Tigers 0.

Wolves 1, Manly United FC 1 Parramatta Eagles 0, Bankstown City FC 0 Sutherland Sharks 6, Sydney United 0 Blacktown City FC 3, Rockdale City Suns 5 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Sydney Olympic 1 APIA Tigers 6.

GRADE 20: Marconi Stallions 4 South Coast

SUPER LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: MINOR SEMI FINALS: FIRST GRADE: St George FC 3 (J Kovas 73/75m B Gibson 91m) Macarthur Rams 1 (C Fleming 72m).

Finals Series

Elimination Final Blacktown City FC

Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3:00 PM Sat 3/Sep Venue TBA

> **Qualifying Final** Sydney United

Sutherland Sharks 3:00 PM Sun 4/Sep Venue TBA

Final Standings

22 13 5 4 40 26 14 43 1 Sydney Olympic 2 Sydney United 3 Sutherland Sharks 22 11 6 5 31 28 3 38 4 Blacktown City FC 22 11 7 4 35 22 13 37 5 Bonnyrigg WE 6 Manly United FC 22 8 5 9 33 24 9 33 22 8 7 7 33 37 -4 31 South Coast 22 9 10 3 35 36 -1 30 8 Rockdale City 22 8 10 4 23 29 -6 28 9 Marconi Stallions 22 6 8 8 28 25 3 26 10 APIA Leichhardt 22 6 11 5 24 36 -12 23 11 Bankstown City 22 6 13 3 30 47 -17 21

Kane Frampton

two goals to Taylor Marshall, before Rhys Roberts and Beau Lvle netted to make the score 2-2 at half-time. After a scoreless second half, Andy Harrison bagged two goals in two minutes in extra time to propel the Sunshine Coast to victory.

son for the Sunshine Coast Fire, with both the youth and senior sides winning the Premiership/Championship

opening exchanges were ferocious and both sides looked switched on from the start. Wearing armbands to commemorate Daniel Morcombe, the Sunshine Coast were finding plenty of the ball and pressuring hard in midfield.

Ten minutes in, it was Brisbane who struck the first blow through Taylor Marshall. Lachlan Dale produced a strong run down the right wing before on the edge of the penalty area, who tucked a low shot past Fire keeper

The Sunshine Coast looked to rally after going behind early, as Beau Lyle played a long ball towards Andy Harrison, who raced to the byline but had

his cross intercepted. With the match evenly poised but the Fire almost found an equaliser as Rhys Roberts launched a long ball that landed well for Harrison to run on to. Under pressure from three defenders, Harrison laid a pass off to Kaine Frew who rolled a shot past the

the Strikers ahead on the scoreboard,

title makes its way to the club trophy cabinet. Photo: JULIE MALE

Disappointed to miss this opportunity, the Fire suddenly found themselves two goals behind when the Strikers struck again minutes later. An incisive pass from Nick Danicic again found Taylor Marshall in plenty of space,

left upright.

and Marshall produced a cool finish to give his side a big advantage.

The Fire now had a mountain to climb, but on 29 minutes managed to halve the deficit. Following a corner, Andy Gillen looped a ball into the box that slipped out of Brisbane keeper Brayden Nielsen's grasp, and Rhys Roberts was well placed to knock the ball home from six yards out.

As half-time approached, the Sunshine Coast kept pressing for an equaliser. Kaine Frew fired in a shot from the edge of the area that Nielsen did well to block.

The under 19s cap off a great year for Sunshine Coast Fire FC as they replicate the seniors' grand final success from last week and yet another

On the brink of half-time the Fire found their second goal to tie it up at 2-2. A chipped ball into the penalty area was headed away from goal by the Strikers defence, but Beau Lyle collected the loose ball and launched a piercing volley that Nielsen managed to block. The rebound came back to Lyle who capitalised on his second chance, shooting into the bottom corner to score with the last kick of the half.

After the break, the two sides looked

tighter defensively and there were fewer genuine chances. The home supporters had reason to cheer on 58 minutes when Frew found the back of the net, but the flag was up for offside. For the Strikers, Marshall went close to notching his hat-trick when he headed just wide of the target following a free-kick.

As the match drifted toward full-time locked at 2-2, James Verdin and Daniel King both had chances to find a winner for the Fire, but it wasn't to be.

State League Champion.

Nearing the end of the first period of extra time, the Fire had their breakthrough. A quick dash down the left flank from James Verdin left the Brisbane defence scrambling, and Verdin had time to pick out the run of Harrison who blasted the ball home from close range for a 3-2 lead.

Barely a minute later, Harrison collected a pass 20 yards out and took an early shot, squeezing the ball inside the right post and scoring a second goal in as many minutes, to all but guarantee the Fire a Grand Final tri-

Both Harrison and Verdin had chances to add a fifth in the second period of extra time, but before long the final whistle sounded for a come-frombehind 4-2 victory and a Premiership/ Championship double to the Under-19 Sunshine Coast Fire.

Undefeated since May, the Fire showed consistency and determination all season to be crowned Champions, and have set the bar very high for the 2012 season.

Final Score - Sunshine Coast FC - 4 (Roberts, 29, Lyle, 45, Harrison, 103,

Brisbane Strikers - 2 (Marshall, 10,

LINEUP - Sam Nickolls, Rob Mc-Nicol, Rhys Roberts, Joshua Atkinson, Brad Wallace, Beau Lyle, Mitch Broom, Andy Gillen, James Verdin, Andy Harrison, Kaine Frew. SUBS Nico Ford, Nick Pointon, Daniel King, Alex Henderson, Nick Roth, Luke Lewis, Damien Cox.

The Sunshine Coast Fire Under-19s

have overhauled a two goal deficit to win the HOSYL Grand Final, claiming a 4-2 extra time victory over the Brisbane Strikers. Brisbane surged to an early lead with

The win capped off a remarkable sea-

At Gympie's One Mile Ovals, the

slipping a tidy ball towards Marshall Sam Nickolls to open the scoring.

Monday 5th September 2011

11

South Hobart and Eagles in Grand Final



Walter **Pless**

South Hobart will meet New Town Eagles in next Sunday's State-wide Top-Four series grand final at Launceston's Aurora Stadium.

In Saturday's semi-finals. South Hobart overcame Clarence United 3-0 at KGV Park, while New Town Eagles beat Devonport City 3-2 away at Valley Road. The all-southern final at 4.15pm

will follow the A-League game between Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar at 2pm Aurora Stadium. The curtain raiser at 10.30am will he the Women's State-wide Top-Four series grand final between the NTC/TIS and the winner of this Sunday's semi-final between Launceston City and Taroona.

ed 4-1 at KGV Park on Saturday Clarence United had only them-

The NTC/TID beat Clarence Unit-

selves to blame for their loss to South Hobart.

They could have led 2-0 before half an hour had passed, but poor finishing meant they had nothing to show from the chances they created.

In the 24th minute, Ben Mascolo played a low ball in from the right which caught the South Hobart defence on the back foot, but Grant Malcolm mis-kicked with the goal at his mercy and, when the ball



South Hobart's Luke Huigsloot wins the ball in a tackle with Clarence United's Joseph Stevens. Photo: WALTER PLESS

rolled to Jae Ho Lee, his shot was

Three minutes later, a throw-in on the left by Lee put Malcolm through on goal, but his tame shot rolled across the face of goal and beyond the far post with not a defender or attacker in sight.

South Hobart off the hook, and they are not the type of team to look a gift horse in the mouth.

In the 28th minute, a cross from the right left Clarence defender Mattias Toghill isolated and with two attackers, Jonathon Lo and Andy Brennan, to contend with. The ball

post to make it 2-0.

It should have been 3-0 in the 35th minute when South were awarded a penalty. Liam Scott had crossed low from the right and Moschogianis fumbled the ball and then pushed Lo in the back as he attempted to regain possession. Hugh Ludford drove the spot-kick against the crossbar, and Clarence were grateful for the reprieve.

schogianis again spilled the ball, which fell eventually to Lo in the ensuing goalmouth scramble. but this time his volley cleared the bar.

The second half was a mere 4 minutes old when Brennan shot wide from Tom Roach's pass as South continued where they had left off in the first half.

Clarence then seemed to get their second wind and began to put pressure on South.

In the 53rd minute, Malcolm shot narrowly wide, while a minute later, Mascolo fed Lachlan Brown, but he could not get in a shot and goalkeeper Sam Kruijver snatched the ball. Seconds later, Clarence's Kyu Jun Kim placed his shot straight at Kruijver.

A team squanders such chances against South at their own peril. In the 61st minute, it was 3-0 as Luke Huigsloot fed Brennan through the middle and the youngster drew Moschogianis off his line before slotting the ball past him.

Clarence then introduced their third Korean import, Yeon Sun Jo, but, apart from one fine run in which he beat several defenders, he had little impact.

Clarence has several more halfchances to score but failed, including one beautiful effort by Lee. Gaining possession just inside the box and with a crowd of players in front of him. Lee curled a delightful shot centimetres wide of the far post with Kruijver watching help-

The game ended on a sad note for South Hobart defender Jim Pennicott, who was stretchered off in the closing seconds after appearing to suffer a serious knee injury. He is due to travel to Victoria shortly for a training camp with Melbourne

Heart, followed by a trip to London for trials in England. Pennicott who was in pain and had ice on the knee, will have the injury assessed on Monday.

New Town Eagles again proved the giant killers of Tasmania when they downed Devonport City through goals by Jacob Clamp, Adam McKeown and Alex Gordon.

Devonport had twice equalised through Jordan Douce and Daniel McGinn. The latter leaves next week for Scotland for trials and would have missed the final of Devonport had qualified

After a goalless opening half in the Women's semi-final, a hat-trick by Jessie Williams helped the NTC TIS to a 4-1 win over Clarence United.

Williams set up Olivia Edwards for the fourth goal in the final minute. while Allie Berry netted Clarence's consolation goal. In Southern League One, fifth-

ranked Nelson Eastern Suburbs caused a huge upset when they bear fourth-ranked Hobart United 6-1 away at Pontville. Two goals by Will Stalker and one

apiece from Jordan Brighella, Troy Hoppitt, Rhys Endall and Ryan Mills did the damage, while Joseph Manarabu replied for United. "I know we don't get a lot of re-

spect, but we actually play pretty well most weeks," said nelson coach, Michael Roach.

"The difference here was we scored two early goals and then went on with it.

"We have been threatening to do this all year. Too little, too late this season, but we have a good group of young players and they are getting there.



Adelaide Blue Eagles booked their place in the Top 5 Finals Series Grand Final with a dominant 3-1 victory over MetroStars on Saturday. Meanwhile on Sunday, Adelaide City eliminated Western Strikers following a 2-1

In the Major Semi Final at TK Shutter Reserve, Blue Eagles won convincingly for the second straight week, combining a rocksolid defence with lethal attacking forays into the 'Stars backline.

First-half goals from Kym Harris and Dean Kenrick set Blue Eagles on their way, with Evan Kounavelis sealing the result just before the hour mark. Lee Robertson scored a consolation for the hosts.

Blue Eagles full-back Damien Di Mella said his side was raring to go from the off and did not let Metro get into their stride.

"After last week the confidence grew and we took that into today's match," said the veteran.

"We didn't give them time on the ball or let them play early on and that was crucial as it set the pattern for the rest of the match. We got the goal and didn't look back."

Di Mella warns the job is not yet complete but feels the team is in the right frame of mind.

"We are hitting form at the right time of year but even after two great wins I don't think there is added pressure now. We will not go out there and expect to win. Nothing is won yet, we still need to show the same intensity in training and in the Grand Final."

In a game of few clear-cut opportunities, Blue Eagles were efficient in It is these sorts of misses that let

fell to Jonathon Lo, who turned and

volleyed a left-foot shot past an unprotected Michael Moschogianis. Four minutes later. Brennan cut in from the left and beat Matthew

Lewis before drilling a low drive inside Moschogianis's right-hand

On the stroke of half-time, Mo-

Blue Eagles into Grand Final as Strikers eliminated

DEVINE SUPER LEAGUE – 1ST SEMI-FINALS MetroStars 1 (Lee Robertson) v Adelaide Blue Eagles 3 (Kym Harris, Dean Kenrick, Evan Kounavelis) (HT 0-2) Best - MetroStars: Jackson Groves, Lee

Robertson, Joseph Polisena; Adelaide Blue Eagles: Damien Crettenden, Dean Kenrick, Chris

U19 - Para Hills 2 v MetroStars 1** 2nd Se

DEVINE SUPER LEAGUE - 2nd SEMI-FINALS Sunday September 4 Adelaide City 2 (Ricardo Da Silva, Jono Ne gus) v Western Strikers 1 (Yas Sudic) (HT 2-0) Best – Adelaide City: Paul Pezos, Matthew Mullen, Luke Ostbye; Western Strikers; Daniele Reserves - Para Hills 1 v Western Strikers 5

Best - Adelaide Comets: Elias Demourtsidis, Frankie Marafioti, Kon Antoniou; Enfield: no

Reserves – Enfield City 2 v Adelaide Olympic

3 (AET) U19 – Enfield City 1 v Adelaide Comets 4 ** 2nd

Sunday September 4 Pirates 1 (James Skeffington) v Adelaide

Olympic 3 (Anthony Orlando Carl Robinson) (HT 1-2)
Best – Pirates: Kieran McFadyen, Nick Mavroma-Reserves - White City 2 v Adelaide Cobras 2

(AET) (FT 1-1)***White City won 4-2 on penalties U19 – Adelaide Olympic 3 v Cumberland United 2** 1st Semi-Final

DEVINE STATE LEAGUE - 2nd SEMI-FINALS Sunday September 4

(HT 0-0)** West Adelaide won 5-4 on penalties Best – West Adelaide: Adam Mehicic, Luca Di Girolami, Kristian Zefi; Northern Demons: Adrian Leet, James Capurso, Jarrad George, Reserves – South Adelaide 3 v Northern De-U19 - West Adelaide 1 v Seaford 0

U19 – Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 v Adelaide City 1 (AET) (FT 1-1)** 1st Semi-Final DEVINE PREMIER LEAGUE - 1ST SEMI-

Saturday September 3 Adelaide Comets 4 (Frankie Marafioti 3, Elias Demourtsidis) v Enfield City 1 (Mark Graham

supplied

DEVINE PREMIER LEAGUE - 2nd SEMI-

tis, James Coley; Adelaide Olympic: Carl Robinson, Adrian landorio, Anthony Orlando

West Adelaide 1 (Harry Skoumbros) v North-ern Demons 1 (James Capurso) (AET) (FT 0-0)

FFSA Finals Results - Week 2

Frankie Marafioti scores from the spot as his hat-trick helped the Comets beat Enfield 4-1.Photo: ADAM BUTLER

front of goal, with Harris carrying on from his four-goal performance last week to open the scoring in the 18th minute. A Blue Eagles corner was missed by Metro goalkeeper Dan Godley and Harris headed into an empty net.

Metro almost benefitted from a ricochet which fell kindly for striker Scott Tunbridge but veteran Blue Eagles custodian Gino De Lucia raced out to clear the danger.

A floated Stefan Barletta free kick had Godley backpedalling and the goalkeeper did just enough to keep it out on the line.

Kenrick was on hand to put Blue Eagles in a commanding position three minutes from the break as he rose to meet a Johnny Giannitto cross with a powerful header which gave Godlev no chance.

Kounavelis received a pass from the back and charged at the Metro

defence, going around two players

before firing low and hard from a tight angle across Godley to seal the result in the 58th minute.

Tunbridge saw two shots in quick succession sail high of De Lucia's goal as Jackson Groves then fired an attempt straight at the shot-

Metro captain Robertson went forward and when a low cross from the right was dummied by Francesco Monterosso in the 75th minute, the defender made no mistake with a sweet finish that had De Lucia rooted to the spot.

Blue Eagles substitute Chad Bugeia dazzled three defenders late on but blazed his finish well over the Best on ground for Blue Eagles

were Damien Crettenden, Kenrick and Chris Annicchiarico. For the defeated 'Stars, Groves, Robertson and Joseph Polisena were the top

In the Minor Semi Final at Adelaide City Park, the hosts booked a spot in the Preliminary Final against MetroStars next week thanks to first-half goals from Ricardo Da Silva and Jono Negus. Strikers responded with 20 minutes remaining through Yas Sudic, but the Federation Cup winners could not find a way back into the

City raced out of the blocks and with seven minutes on the clock opened the scoring. A through ball put Da Silva one-on-one with Strikers goalkeeper Takumi Takahashi and the forward slotted his 17th goal of the campaign into the

It took only a further eight minutes for City to extend the lead as a Tom Maricic back-header fell short of Takahashi with Negus quick to pounce and put the black and

FFSA Finals Series

Preliminary Final Saturday September 10th MetroStars v Adelaide City Kick off 2:30pm TK Shutter Reserve

Winner takes on Blue Eagles in the Grand Final.

whites in a comfortable position.

Strikers fought gallantly after the interval and gave themselves a chance when Sudic fired in a low volley from outside the box in the 70th minute that flashed past City shot-stopper Luke Ostbye. Best on ground for Adelaide City

were Paul Pezos, Matthew Mullen and Ostbye. For Western Strikers, Daniele Lastella, Michele Lastella and Ermias Haile were the stand-

Monday 5th September 20°

WA prepares for Top Five Series



Western Knights face a difficult task to get back to the WA State Premier League Grand Final after finishing the regular season in fifth position.

Last year's finals runner-up lost 3-2 at home to Balcatta in the last round of the home-and-away season, but had already wrapped up a spot in the playoffs.

The Knights will face fourthplaced Sorrento in a one-off elimination final at Percy Doyle Reserve next weekend, with the winner to advance to the minor semi-final. where it will face the loser of the qualifying final between Perth SC and Inglewood United.

Premiers Balcatta are the other side in the finals, but it has a bye in the first week and goes straight into the major semi-final, which will see it come up against the winner of the qualifying final.

The Cats took an early 2-0 lead over the Knights on Saturday but the hosts responded when Johnny Mirco got them back into the game early in the second half.

Balcatta restored its two goal advantage when Steve Burton completed his brace, only for Mirco to score his second a minute later, but the top side held on from there.

hosting rights for the qualifying final thanks to its 1-0 away win over

The reigning champions went ahead through Craig Simpson shortly before half-time and held on to secure its 13th win of the season, which saw it finish 12 points behind Bal-

And defeat was costly for the Gulls, as it saw them drop to fourth spot and means it faces elimination next week against Western Knights, instead of having the double chance guaranteed by finishing in the top

Inglewood United's 3-0 win against Floreat Athena saw it climb

United will remain in the finals race even if it loses to Perth next week, but defeat would mean it would have to take the hard path to the decider, having to go via the minor semi-final and the preliminary

Despite the comfortable final margin, Inglewood didn't have everything its own way and held just a 1-0 advantage late in the game.

Rory Grant put United ahead in the 40th minute and then came through with goals in the 90th and 92nd minutes to wrap up the win. Cockburn City farewelled the

Premier League with a 1-1 draw against Armadale.

City, who had enjoyed a prolonged stay in the top flight, were relegated with just four wins and 15 points from 22 games.

The departure of Cockburn and Mandurah City leaves the top divi-



Stadium. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

sion with just two clubs from the southern suburbs and the participation of the Western Knights for next year is in doubt due to its inability to meet Football West's new ground requirements.

Mandurah's stay in the Premier League ended with a 2-0 home loss to Stirling Lions, who finished the season in sixth spot, two points outside the top five

And ECU Joondalup's disappointing season came to an end with a 4-0 loss to the NTC. Joondalup finished in ninth place.



WA Results - Final Round

Cockburn City 1 (Grant 18) Armadale 1 (Dia-3 (Grant 40, 90, 90+2); ECU Joondalup 0 NTC 4 (Oyet 20, Jovic 45, 89, O'Neill 75); Mandurah City 0 Stirling Lions 2 (O'Callagha 78, Watt 89); Western Knights 2 (Mirco 55 Sorrento 0 Perth SC 1 (Simpson 38).

Cockburn City 3 Armadale 0; Floreat Athena 3 Inglewood United 8; ECU Joondalup 4 NTC 2; Mandurah City 1 Stirling Lions 0; Western Knights 1 Balcatta 1; Sorrento 0 Perth SC 3.

1 Inglewood United 0; Mandurah City 0 Stirling Lions 3; Western Knights 2 Balcatta 1; to 4 Perth SC 3.

Finals Series

Elimination Final Western Knights

Sorrento Percy Doyle Reserve

Qualifying Final Perth SC

Inglewood United

All Flags WA Premier League

Inglewood United 4 Sorrento 5 Western Knights Stirling Lions 22 8 2 12 27 42 -15 26 9 ECU Joondalup

Olympic books grand final spot at the expense of champs



īhomas **Castleton**

A young Canberra Olympic side has upset current League Champions Canberra FC 5-3 in extra-time at Deakin Stadium on Sunday. Olympic got off to the better start

and constantly threatened Canberra FC's goal as Oliver Wiederkhrs shots could not find the target. Ellia Salloam missed a golden chance to put Olympic in front but his shot was pushed wide. Those misses cost Olympic as Can-

berra FC got the breakthrough 33 minutes in when Michael Spaleta saw John Glass free inside the box as he slotted it in from close range. Canberra FC then doubled the lead in injury time as his shot took a deflection and looped over Olympic keeper, James Bradbury as FC went into the half two goals up.

But it took just two minutes into the second half before Olympics, James Field's low driven shot from 25 yards out smashed into the bottom right

It looked as if Olympics poor finishing had let them down, as numerous shots from Wiederkhr and Trevis Dries went straight at the keeper. However, with just four minutes remaining Jakob Williams run down the middle of the park was finished with a well-struck shot from outside the box sending the match into extratime.

Extra time was highly entertaining and after missing two good chances late in the second half Dries got it third time lucky as he finished a ball that popped to his feet to beat Canberra FC keeper, Ben Klug at his near post.

Olympic had the chance to give themselves a two goal buffer but



Minor Semi-Final: Belconnen United v Canberra City - Matt Valeri attempts to win the ball off Nikola Taneski. Photo: NICK GUOTH

some solid defence from Canberra

FC set up the quick break and Matt

Grebsa's run was put to a holt but

Paul Ivanic ran onto the free ball to

calmly put home the equiliser in the

It was late drama in the second pe-

riod of extra time as Victor Yanes

looked to be taken down inside the

area but the referee just waved the

appeal away as Olympic countered

through Dries who was left one on

one with Klug and the sixteen vear

old calmly beat Klug to give Dries

his second of the night and put Olym-

Daniel Barac settled the result in the

119th minute when he chipped Klug

Olympic coach Dean Ugrinic was

lost for words over the win and could

only congratulate his group of young-

"We are unbelievably ecstatic to be

sters who all stepped up to the task.

to give Olympic a 5-3 victory.

109th minute.

pic back in front

down two nil and come back against a team like that, basically a team that has dominated for the last 4 or 5 years. It's unbelievable," Ugrinic

"I am just so stoked for the boys. These young kids have just done this club so proud.

We were unlucky and we didn't take our chances and that what happens, a side like Canberra FC will punish

This victory gives Olympic a direct route to the Grand Final in two weeks

On Saturday, just two weeks after they put five past Canberra City, Belconnen United put on yet another dominant display in beating City 4-0 at Hawker Football Centre.

Belconnen from the outset dominated in the middle of the park, the centre pairing of Taylor Beeton and Michael Reeves linked up well with the forwards Danny Macor and Dustin Wells to help create constant threats for the City defence.

Major Semi-Final: Canberra FC v Canberra Olympic gw.jpg - James Field

moves past Matthew Grbesa and Ian Graham (12). Photo: NICK GUOTH

Belconnen got the early lead through a Wells run that drew City custodian, James Ward, off his line as Wells simply squared the ball to Macor who passed the ball into the open net.

City's set-piece defence let them down as Belconnen capitalized with goals from the head to Reeves and Matt Valeri just before the half gave the Blue Devils a commanding 3-0 lead at half-time

City did have moments in attack and a Pat Ross-Magee solo run through the middle of the park nearly got City one back but his shot just clipped the crossbar.

The second half saw City try to up the tempo with Nikola Taneski and Ross-Magee heckling at the Belconnen goal. City keeper, Ward kept City in with a chance when he saved numerous shots from Macor, Wells and

Belconnen though hit the final blow in the 78th minute when some acrobatic work from Danny Macor earned him a double.

Belconnen coach. Steve Forshaw was pleased with his sides performance today as they now get one step closer to the grand Final.

"The objective was to not only win today but to play good football as well and I thought we did that today," Forshaw said.

"I think we dominated all over the park. Our movement was clever and we retained the ball pretty well.

I thought we were just a little bit better today than our opponents but you could play them next week and have a very different result."

Belconnen next week will play Canberra FC in their Preliminary Final clash at McKellar Park.

ACT Finals Series

Rock Premier League Semi-finals

Canberra FC 3 (John Glass 33',

Adam Spaleta 45'+2, Paul Ivanic Canberra Olympic 5 (James Field

47', Jakob Williams 86', Traves Dries 95', 115', Daniel Barac 119')

Belconnen United 4 (Danny Macor 13', 78', Michael Reeve 26', Matt Valeri 45+1') Canberra City 0

Belconnen United 8 ANU WFC 0 Gungahlin 2 Weston Creek 2 Tuggeranong United 2 Canberra

Woden Valley 6 Belwest Foxes 0

ACT Finals Fixtures

Preliminary Final Belconnen United

Canberra FC McKellar Park Sunday 11th September KO 5pm

Winner advances to Grand Final to meet Canberra Olympic

ACT Standings

W D L For Ag GD Pts 1 Canberra FC 16 14 0 2 77 20 +57 42 2 Canberra Olympic 16 12 2 2 59 18 +41 38 3 Belconnen United 16 9 3 4 53 30 +23 29 4 Canberra City 16 8 3 5 46 24 +32 27 5 Cooma Tigers 6 Woden Valley 16 4 4 8 46 38 +8 16 7 Monaro Panthers 16 4 3 9 30 35 -5 15 8 Tuggeranong United 16 4 3 9 25 39 -14 15 9 Goulburn Strikers 16 0 0 16 8 154 -146 0

LEADING SCORERS

28 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United) 17 Paul IVANIC, Victor YANES (both Can 16 Mark SHIELDS (Monaro Panthers)

14 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Alex OLORIEGBE (Woden Valley) 12 Domenic GIAMPAOLO (Canberra

Monday 5th September 2011





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Monday 5th September 2011





16

YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? :

YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HALE

- PATIO!

PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Diego Maradona

Sydney FC





On what was a memorable evening at Etihad Stadium's Victory Room Northcote City's Jason Trifiro and South Melbourne's Laura Spiranovic took out the major awards at Football Federation Victoria's 2011 Gold Medal Night presented by Legea.

Playing his debut season in the Alanic Victorian Premier League (VPL), winning the 2011 Men's Gold Medal was a pleasant surprise for Trifiro who almost missed the night, catching a plane from Sydney on short notice late in the after-

"I've never won something as high as this in my career before so to achieve the VPL Gold Medal is a great honour and I'm very happy," Trifiro said.

"The highlight of the season was playing with my brother (Northcote teammate Glen). When we're playing we have that understanding of each other, bringing confidence to each other, enjoying ourselves and playing with a smile on our face."

For Spiranovic, who also took out the Pelada Womens Premier League Golden Boot, the Womens Gold Medal was a deserved achievement to cap off a wonderful season so far, but the lethal striker insisted on playing down her role and instead attributed the win to both her coach and teammates.

"This award would not have come without the hard work of my teammates and great coaching by Alan Davidson. I'm the final link of great play and I'm just lucky to have such a strong network around

Former Brisbane Roar and current Heidelberg United custodian Griffin Mc-Master took out VPL Goalkeeper of the Year, accepting the award on crutches, while Bundoora United's Rebecca Lirosi went home with WPL Goalkeeper of the

In the Coach of the Year awards it was a case of 'in with the new' as Arthur Papas took out the award for VPL Coach of the Year after leading Oakleigh Cannons to the Grand Final in his first season as Head Coach. Alan Davidson took out WPL Coach of the Year as he led South Melbourne to their first ever Grand Final appearance.

Hume City's Richard Cardozo also capped off a stellar season winning the VPL Golden Boot and the Bill Fleming Award for Media Player of the Year.

And it's gold, gold, gold for..

Volunteer of the Year Female Coach of the Year Male Coach of the Year **Best News Article** Les Shorrock Best Image Award Hoar/Melvin Award Iones/Martin Award Jane Oakley Award Weinstein Award FFV Hall of Fame **FFV Hall of Fame** FFV Hall of Fame Referee Development Award Referee of the Year Bill Flemming Award U21 Player of the Year **MFL** Referee MFL Mens Golden Boot MFL Mens Gold Medal WPL Goalkeeper of the Year VPL Goalkeeper of the Year WPL Golden Boot VPL Golden Boot WPL Coach of the Year VPL Coach of the Year WPL Gold Medal VPL Gold Medal **Jason Trifiro**

Michael Mitchell Jamara Maza Rob Giabardo **Engel Schmidl** Anita Milas Candela Ferreyra Bas Ebru Hasan **Brianna Davey** Damien Miskulin Michael Weinstein Theresa Seas Tom Jack Paschalis Natis Lucien Laverdure Richard Cardozo Evan Christodoulou Shams Shahabbi Joao Guilherme da Silva Andre Caro Rebecca Lirosi **Griffin McMaster** Laura Sprianovic Richard Cardozo Alan Davidson Arthur Papas Laura Spiranovic























Sandringham's Emma Runnells, Pete Horman, Sienna Fogarty Christie Parton and Hanna Stewart.

.

Melbourne Victory's Francis Awaritefe, FFV president Nick Monteleone, MC Kostas Kilias and Colleen Monteleone.



The crew from Futsal Oz in Brunswick congratulate Joao Guilherme da Silva (MFL Mens Golden Boot) and Andre

Got any pics from your club event? Feel free to send in to news@goalweekly.com

Caro (MFL Mens Gold Medal).



and Geelong Regional Football Association
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:
U15's and U16's Vio
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS:

TEAM HONOURS: WPL2011 Premiership, GRFA promotion from Division 1 to premier

CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Dayor Suker FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Vedran Corluka FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Adrian Leijer FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:

Mark Viduka FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Matthew Spiranovic

MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Australian Croatian tournament final in 2005 MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN:

An Urawa Redsgame, the fans are inspiring.
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED:
In my first season of football was where I first experienced that invincible feeling associated with scoring and realised that I was passionate about being a forward. This season I also scored a memorable goal when I took a quick free kick near the corner flag which caught the goal keeper off her line and sailed into the back of the net.

EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Playing in the Division 2 Open Women's League at 11 years old and coming up against women double my size, very intimidating.

FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: All the laughs you share with your team mates at train-

ing. Have to be there!
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT Losing, because

you never want to let down your coach, team

mates and supporters.
WORST INJURY: I've been pretty fortunate with injuries, when I broke my toe it was the most frustrating because littocksome time to

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Sandringham defence, they are good at man marking. FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Epping Soccer Stadium

SUPERSTITIONS: None, touch wood.
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL! Weetbix

WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS:

Speed over 20m.
WHAT AREYOUR WEAKNESSES:

Heading the ball in the air

FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:

North Geelong Warriors
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Leonardo

HOBBIES: lenjoy most things with good

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORTE Croatian coast
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOTE Torquay in Summer
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Prison Break
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Anything up beat
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT! Urawa

FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Toomany tomention BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON GAREER

Alan Davidson BIGGEST DRAGIN SOCCER Simulation because consider it cheating.

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE GAME Use of technology in terms of assisting referees to make the correct decision.

ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: With commitment,

discipline and willingness to work hard you are likely to be rewarded.

FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play in the WHeague WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: The person who hands over the World Cup to the winning captain of either Australia or Croatia in Brazil 2014! YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL! Melbourne Victory





A look at the lighter side of football.



Plenty of zeroes in this FFV policy WE MUST be another week closer to the day a whole club folds because of a massive fine imposed on it by the FFV Tribunal.

This week it was Lalor United and Maribyrnong Greens fronting after the abandonment of an Under-16s game following a melee. Lalor United ended up being fined \$19,500 and Maribyrnong Greens copped a \$22,000 whack. More is to follow as the Greens must still provide details about an individual who ran onto the ground with the corner flag and the individual who posted comments on the facebook page of club associate Abbas Allafta regarding the tribunal hearing.

First of all, I'm stunned that matchending brawls are still occurring, as the FFV boasted a few months ago that its zero tolerance policy was successful. By being successful I'm assuming that FFV didn't mean that actual incidents were being reduced, but that enough money is now being raised from such incidents to

fund Melbourne Victory's Youth and Women's teams for a while and pay off any legal bills that may be lingering following old battles with Whittlesea Zebras.

Seriously, it can't be good for the game when people look at these massive fines and start thinking that being on a club's committee is no longer worth the hassle. It's hard enough to get volunteers as it is without creating a feeling that if something occurs at a game someone will need to take out a second mortgage to pay for it.

I understand that referees need to

be protected, but one can't help wondering if any over-reactions have taken place. There are also some serious inconsistencies when comparing cases. You may have seen the YouTube clip of Hume City's President giving an assistant referee a smack a few years ago. There are now fines for verbal abuse greater than those issued in that case, which for mine falls into a category below that of striking an official.

Speaking of striking officials, surely you recall Joel Griffiths punching an assistant referee in the groin in the first season of the A-League? If not, you can find clips of it, as there is footage. It seems incredulous to me that a nationally televised hit to an official went virtually unpunished when at grassroots level a few harsh words can see a club fined \$1500. \$5000, \$10,000 or more.

It's hard for an A-League club to go bankrupt given they simply revert to FFA ownership when in trouble, but on the FFV's current fines scale what would Adelaide United have copped for failing to control their club associate John Kosmina when he grabbed Kevin Muscat by the throat at Etihad Stadium? No doubt if that happened at a suburban ground in Melbourne this week the FFV would be looking at upwards of \$20,000 entering their coffers. That does not seem right to me.

I would have thought you would come down harder on highly publicised incidents like that to set an example for the lower leagues. Instead, at the top level we have incidents captured on film going pretty much unpunished (Kosmina was banned for four matches, the amount he was fined remains "undisclosed") while at the other end of the spectrum you have clubs being crippled based solely upon a referee's report. If you still have a window open on YouTube you can do a quick search to find the Green Gully converted penalty that the referee ruled was missed to see how these blokes can make mistakes as we all can. Yet their reports are considered sacrosanct by the FFV.

Indeed, you will hear example after example of people who front the tribunal only to be told not to discuss the refereeing when in fact if not for the referee's decisions those people wouldn't have a charge to answer in most cases. It's the referee's decision-making performance that is at the nub of most charges and fines yet people with legal training (we are told) who sit in judgement at tribunal level often choose to remove this crucial element from discussion.

Consistency, fairness, common sense and logic are just some of the things I consider lacking from the current set-up. There are plenty in football who should be ashamed of themselves right now and that's not just restricted to the idiots out there having game-ending brawls or threatening referees.

Brown's strike wins it for Gold Coast

JAMES Brown's knack for scoring goals looks to be in good shape heading into the new Hyundai A-League after the youngster's 17th minute strike won it for Gold Coast against Melbourne Victory in the pre-season friendly at Owen Park on Sunday.

Miron Bleiberg's men were good value for their win against a strong Victory outfit, with the hosts looking more composed on the ball and far more dangerous in the attacking

Bleiberg started with a flexible four-three-three line up that included a striking trio of Dylan Macallister, James Brown and Ben Harold. At the back Josh Brillante, Ante Rozic, Adama Traore and Dylan McGowan all started with the midfield spots taken by Dutch duo Paul Beekmans and Peter Jungschlager, supported by Brazilian playmaker Robson.

GOLD COAST 1 (Brown 17')

One Game At A Time

Euro Qualifiers

Tuesday, 6 September 2011 **European Championship Qualifying**

Azerbaijan v Latvia v Greece Kazakhstan Russia v Rep of Ireland Finland v Netherlands Moldova v Hungary Croatia v Israel Bosnia-Hercegovina v Denmark v Norway, Luxembourg v Slovakia v Armenia

Malta v Georgia Romania v France San Marino v Sweden Serbia v Faroe Islands Switzerland v Bulgaria
England v Wales
Iceland v Cyprus
Italy v Slovenia Scotland v Lithuania

Germany

Austria v Turkey Estonia v Northern

Friday, 9 September 2011 Augsburg v Bayer Leverkuse Saturday, 10 September 2011 Bayern Munich v SC Freiburg Borussia Dortmund v Hertha Berlin Borussia M'gladbach v FC Kaiserslautern Mainz v TSG Hoffenheim VfB Stuttgart v Hannover 96 Werder Bremen v Hamburg Sunday, 11 September 2011 Cologne v Nuremberg Wolfsburg v Schalke 04

Saturday, 10 September 2011 ADO Den Haag v RKC Waalwijk AZ Alkmaar v Vitess Roda JC v FC Twente De Graafschap v NEC Sunday, 11 September 2011 Heerenveen v FC Groningen SC Excelsior Rotterdam v FC Utrecht VVV Venlo v PSV Eindhoven NAC v Feyenoord

Saturday, 10 September 2011 AC Ajaccio v Valenciennes Bordeaux v Evian Thonon Gaillar Caen v Toulouse Dijon v Lyon Sochaux v Lorient St Etienne v Lille Marseille v Rennes Sunday, 11 September 2011 Montpellier v Nice Nancy v Auxerre Paris SG v Brest

England EPL

Saturday, 10 September 2011 Arsenal v Swansea Everton v Aston Villa Man City v Wigan Stoke v Liverpool Sunderland v Chelsea Wolverhampton v Tottenham Bolton v Man Utd Sunday, 11 September 2011 Norwich v West Brom Fulham v Blackburn Monday, 12 September 2011 QPR v Newcastle

The Championship

Saturday, 10 September 2011 Barnsley v Leicester Ballistey v Leicester Blackpool v Ipswich Bristol City v Brighton Burnley v Middlesbrough Cardiff v Doncaster Leeds v Crystal Palace Peterborough v Hull Reading v Watford Southampton v Nott'm Forest West Ham v Portsmouth Coventry v Derby Sunday, 11 September 2011 Birmingham v Millwall

Scotland

Saturday, 10 September 2011 Dundee Utd v Rangers Celtic v Motherwell Inverness CT v Hearts Kilmarnock v Dunfermline Sunday, 11 September 2011 Hibernian v Aberdeen

Saturday, 10 September 2011 AEK Athens v Ergotelis Atromitos v Panathinaikos Giannina v Asteras Tripoli Kerkyra v Panetolikos, Olympiakos v FC Xanthi Panionios v PAOK Salonika

Saturday, 10 September 2011 Villarreal v Sevilla Valencia v Atletico Madrid Sunday, 11 September 2011 Real Betis v Mallorca Racing Santander v Levante Osasuna v Sporting Gijon Rayo Vallecano v Real Zaragoza Espanyol v Athletic Bilbao Monday, 12 September 2011

Mirabella Cup

goalweekly.com



Semi Finals

Wed 7 Sep KO 7:30PM

Northcote City v Green Gully

Olympic Park (Village)

Wed 7 Sep KO 7:30PM

Oakleigh Cannons v

Melbourne Knights

Kingston Heath Soccer

Cup Final

The final of the Mirabella Cup

is proposed to take place on

Sat 10 Sep KO 4PM

at AAMI Park.

Please check FFV website for

confirmed details.

VPL GF ticket holders gain

entry for only \$10.

Curtain raiser:

Ballarat Red Devils v

Cobram Victory

Cup creates pathway for national comp



Robert **Di Fabio**

Football Federation Victoria has announced the scheduling for the Mirabella Cup semi final fixtures which are set to take place on Wednesday night. In the vein of the celebrated FA Cup competition, the Victorian cup version will encompass neutral venues for the relative clubs, with the final to be played at AAMI Park. There has been no definite confirmation of the time nor day at the stage, due to stadium availability. Although it is believed it will likely be held on Saturday afternoon.

Northcote City have indulged in a memorable week, amid gracing the honour of the VPL Gold Medal winner - Jason Trifiro - while young prodigy Kristian Konstantinidis won a contract with the inaugural Melbourne Heart youth team. The club will be seeking to continue its vast fortune when it meets VPL champions Green Gully Cavaliers at Olympic Village.

If the Cavaliers can win the Mirabella Cup prize, their name will be cemented in the FFV history books by claiming the illustrious Victorian treble – VPL Minor Premiers, VPL Champions and the Mirabella Cup.

Meanwhile, the other cup tie will see Oakleigh Cannons lock horns with the Melbourne Knights at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. The match is positioned to be an enthralling contest, with both outfits eager to win a place in the

Monday 5th September 2011

Both fixtures are due to kick-off at

Despite the disappointment and turmoil that surrounded the Mirabella Cup earlier in the season – with the prohibiting of Victorian A-League affiliates Victory and Heart from participating - overall the statewide knockout competition has been a strewed success.

It's fitting that the Mirabella Cup will conclude at the amphitheatre of Victorian football, where the VPL final was played on Saturday for the second consecutive year.

Cup football is certainly a unique facet within the beautiful game, and unquestionably holds a place inside the Victorian football landscape.

It gives the opportunity for clubs to test their temperament against opposition in unfamiliar surroundings from divisions that may not be accustomed to.

We've witnessed fairytales come into fruition, particularly Cobram Victory's, the outfit situated in regional Victoria. They made soundwaves around the Victorian football community, and also gained publicity nationwide, following their exploits to reach the final 12, only to be humbled by the former NSL champion Melbourne Knights.

The underdog tag in cup football habitually gains the support across the football spectrum. Fans love to see clubs from the lower divisions in the football pyramid challenge their higher ranked opposition.

With the fulfilment of Victoria's version of cup football, a prospective national cup competition is currently in development. Gossip surrounding the proposed FFA Cup competition is gaining in-roads within the governing body, amid extensive market research and plan-

The FFA have previously stated



Have we got ourselves a grand final reply on our hands before the week is out? Photo: ANITA MILAS

their desire for the cup competition to commence around the March timeframe, with the finale on Australia Day the following year, making it an annual event in the Australian sporting environment. It is unknown whether the tournament will inaugurate next year or the following season.

Many questions still remain on how the format will take place, potential sponsors, television coverage and how teams will be eligible to qualify for the main draw. Although, momentum is beginning to cultivate amongst the football community and amongst the respective state federations.

It's imperative that all respective outfits are be eligible to enter the Cup, right down the pyramid cycle - from amateur, state leagues, right through to premier league clubs.

The objective of the FFA Cup is to engage local communities from around Australia in an effort to en-

the way through to the peak tier in Australia – the A-League. We want fans to embrace the A-League and become integral supporters of the domestic game. Competitive competition will assist in building the bridge between the relative state confederations and the national governing body.

There's no hiding the fact that many clubs of the defunct NSL have been left with a sour taste in their mouths following the manner their respective clubs were treated post 2004. Whilst representing their teams proudly in their relative state competitions, the FFA Cup will provide them an opportunity to once again be at the forefront of

The phantasm of community clubs locking horns with the A-League elite is a sight many fans will be eager to witness. In many respects, the Mirabella Cup was a perfect occasion to test the waters, to see

gulf support from the grassroots all

the reaction from fans and how the whole turn of events was embraced from the wider community, although due to peculiar reasons, the FFA's back flip didn't let this come into place.

Uncharted waters, is what confronts the FFA. Will the proposed national competition assist the game in its development, community engagement and ultimately allow the game to further prosper in tandem? Only time will tell, let's hope the FFA employs the correct strategic plans and further nurtures the game in the correct conduit.

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Planet Football No.752 **Zimbabwe**

NAME: Zimbabwe CAPITAL: Harare POPULATION:(2009approx.) 12,521,000 CONFEDERATION: CAF FIFA WORLD RANKING: 86th

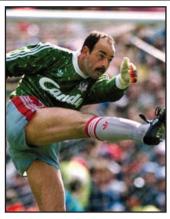
WHO ARE YA?

A landlocked country in southern Africa, the Republic of Zimbabwe has been independent since 1980 when it became the first whiteminority ruled country in the region to shrug off Commonwealth rule and apartheid in one fell swoop, in so doing changing its name from Rhodesia to Zimbabwe (said to mean 'stone houses' in the indigenous Shona tongue) and Robert Mugabe assuming the position of president that he has occupied ever since, making him one of the longest-serving current world

SO WHAT YOU DONE?

Due to cricket and rugby union being the sports favoured by the white elite historically up to the apartheid era (as in South Africa), football was reduced to second-class status despite being the most popular among the black-majority populace. Rhodesia did not contest the World Cup qualifiers until Mexico '70, when they locked horns with our Johnny Warren-led Socceroos in a 3-match series that has gone down in Aussie football folklore. The two nations ground out 2 draws in neutral Mozambique, needing a tie-breaker match which was won by the Aussies 3-1...unfortunately the Socceroo camp had sought out help from a local witch-doctor to jinx the Rhodesians in the tiebreaker. Why 'unfortunately?' Well, because they had been under the impression the witchdoctor was happy to offer his services free of charge - as things turned out, the witch-doctor was incensed by the misunderstanding and as the Aussie camp couldn't pay him the desired £1000, the witch-doctor promptly put a curse on the squad and Australian football in general And 1974 notwithstanding, so began the long, arduous history of the Socceroos routinely failing to reach the World Cup finals (in this case crashing out to Israel home-and-away)...

As Zimbabwe, they failed to make an impact



until USA '94 when they came within 2 points of qualification. Their only major tournament appearances to date have been the 2004 and 2006 African Nations Cups.

With 18 league titles and 6 cups to their name, Dynamos Harare are the country's undisputed super-club, also finishing runners-up in the 1998 African Champions League and semi-finalists in the 2008 edition. Highlanders FC are also a traditional power, whilst Monomotapa United have enjoyed recent domestic success and featured in continental competition, albeit with less success than Dynamos.

REP YOUR COLORS

Nicknamed the Warriors, the Zimbabwean NT's threads are in a constant state of change - in the 1990s they favoured dark-green shirts and socks with gold shorts, with the inverted as the away These days they sport gold tops with green shorts and socks (rather like their South African neighbours), with an all-white/green-trimmed number as their away strip.

Arguably the greatest Zimbabwean sportsman in history, '80s Liverpool goalkeeping legend Bruce



No clowning around here as Brucie G has a punt. Boom! Boom!

Grobbelaar is a shoe-in here. Before embarking on his stellar career at Anfield, he made his international debut for then-Rhodesia at 18 and then joined the Vancouver Whitecaps in the old North American Soccer League. In all he won 33 caps for his country whilst keeping goals for the all-conquering Liverpool boys (including our own Craig Johnston of course) for a hefty return of NINE-TEEN TROPHIES OVERALL from 1981-92!!

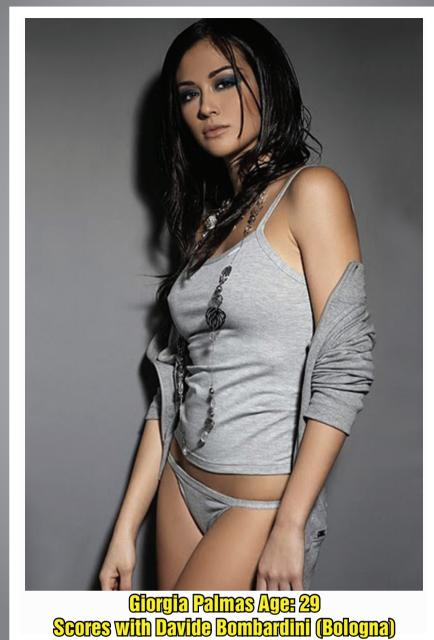
Other Zimbabwean footy legends include Robin Jordan, the keeper who was the 1969 Socceroos' nemesis and in more recent times striker Peter Ndlovu, who holds the honour of all-time leading scorer for Zimbabwe (38 goals in 100 caps) and who himself enjoyed a career in English football; albeit with less-distinguished company in Coventry, Birmingham City, Huddersfield and Sheffield

SO WHAT NOW?

The Warriors' 2012 African Nations Cup qualifying campaign currently hangs on a knife-edge in Group A, as defeat to Liberia and a Cape Verde victory over Mali will see them crash out of contention (to be played over the Sept. 2-4 international match-days). In 2014 WC qualifying they have been seeded in Group G with Egypt, Guinea and the winner of a tie between Mozambique and the Comoros. Good luck to the Warriors!

HOT: Green Gully booked a second-consecutive VPL Grand Final last week and regardless of the outcome in the big one vs. Oakleigh, are still in the Mirabella Cup running to secure silverware if not a historic Double.. situations like these no doubt resurrect the ongoing debate over promotion and relegation from State leagues to the A-League. In any case it shows Gully as a leader for other VIC clubs to follow, and the healthy state of the grassroots game in general.

NOT: The anxiety over the new A-League season, I just can't wait! I wish it could be October already!!!



Couch Potato Dept.



Monday September 5th 04:30 PM **Futbol Mundial** The World Game

Sunday September 11th 10:30 AM Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia. (Sport)

11:00 AM Les Murray's Football Feature - Match highlights of Copa Sudamericana: Velez Sarasfield v Argentinos Juniors. (Sport)

12:00 PM Futbol Mundial - Weekly football magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the

SBS TWO Monday September 5th 09:30 PM The World The World Game



The Futbol Town Show

Extra Time

Magazine Shov Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV Channel 31 Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show Every Saturday 10.30am

Catch The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 7pm on C31 and C44Digital FUTSAL 🕐

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 5-Sep

Primera Division Round 5 Independiente v **Boca Juniors** 7:05 AM LIVE

Wednesday 7-Sep

Euro 2012 Qualifier Group B Russia v Republic of Ireland 12:55 AM LIVE Euro 2012 Qualifier Group G England v Wales 4:40 AM LIVE Euro 2012 Qualifier Group I Scotland v

Lithuania 7:00 AM 1st Airing Euro 2012 Qualifier Group F Croatia v Israel 8:45 AM 1st Airing

Friday 9-Sep

Copa Sudamericana 2nd Stage 2nd Leg Velez Sarsfield v Argentinos Juniors 8:10

Saturday 10-Sep Bundesliga Round 5 Augsburg v Leverkusen 4:25 AM LIVE Scottish Premier League Round 7 Dundee Utd v Rangers 9:25 PM LIVE Scottish Premier League Round 7 Celtic v Motherwell 11:55 PM LIVE

Sunday 11-Sep Bundesliga Round 5 Werder Bremen v Hamburg 2:25 AM LIVE

Lique 1 Round 5 Marseille v Rennes 4:55 Ligue 1 Round 5 St Etienne v Lille 7:00

AM 1st Airing Primera Division Round 6 Racing v Olimpo 10:10 AM LIVE

Blue Square Premier Round 8 Mansfield v Newport 3:45 PM 1st Airing Eredivisie Round 5 Heracles v Ajax 5:30

PM 1st Airing J-League Round 25 Gamba Osaka v Omiya Ardija 19:15 PM 1st Airing Bundesliga Round 5 Cologne v Nuremburg 11:25 PM LIVE

Monday 12-Sep Bundesliga Round 5 Wolfsburg v Schalke

Ligue 1 Round 5 PSG v Brest 4:55 AM

Primera Division Round 6 Boca Juniors v

San Juan 7:05 AM LIVE Ligue 1 Round 5 Montpellier v Nice 9:15

Tuesday 06th September

02:30 am Arsenal TV Arsenal V TBA 05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Chelsea V Arsenal 6th Round Replay 02/03 06:00 am FA Cup Classics Newcastle United V Chelsea Semi Final 99/00

Wednesday 07th September

02:30 am Liverpool TV International Week 05:30 am FA Cup Classics Arsenal V Bolton Wanderers 4th Round Replay 93/94 06:00 am FA Cup Classics Blackburn Rovers V Chelsea Semi Final 06/07

Friday 09th September 06:00 am Arsenal TV (Rpt) Arsenal V TBA

Saturday 10th September 08:00 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt) Matchday 4

SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Sat Sep 10 Sunderland v Chelsea Sat Sep 10 Arsenal v Swansea Viewers Choice Sat Sep 10 Manchester City v Wigan 11.53 pm

Viewers Choice Sat Sep 10 Stoke v Liverpool 11.53 pm Viewers Choice

Sat Sep 10 Wolves v Tottenham 11.53 pm Viewers Choice Sun Sep 11 Bolton v Manchester Utd 2.23 am

Sun Sep 11 Everton v Aston Villa 4.30 am Sun Sep 11 Norwich v West Brom 10.23 pm

Mon Sep 12 Fulham v Blackburn 2.53 am Tue Sep 13 QPR v Newcastle 4.53 am

INTERNATIONALS

World Cup Qualifier Wednesday 7 September Saudi Arabia v Australia



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Galvin Park Reserve

Williamstown v Geelong
JT Gray Reserve Westgate v Ballarat Red Devils Ardeer Reserve Sat 10 Sep KO 7:00PM

State SE 2 Dandenong City v Noble Park Utd

Frank Holohan Soccer Re Diamond Valley Utd v Box Hill United Partington Flats Heatherton Utd v Eastern Lions Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre Knox City v Doncaster Rovers Egan Lee Reserve

Morwell Pegasus v South Springvale Ronald Reserve Malvern City v Casey Comets Kooyong Reserve No. 3

State NW 3 Avondale Heights v Hume Utd Doyle Street Reserve Geelong Rangers v Keilor Park Myers Reserve La Trobe University v Sunbury Utd Latrobe Uni Lower Field
Maribyrnong Greens v Cairnlea

Skinner Reserve Sydenham Park v Whittlesea Utd

Keilor Lodge Reserve Yarraville Glory v Melbourne University McIvor Reserve

Doveton v Mornington Waratah Reserve
Peninsula Strikers v Croydon City Arrows Centenary Park
Nunawading City FC v Old Scotch Mahoneys Road Reserve Waverley Wanderers v Frankston Pines Carlson Avenue Reserve

Fitzroy City v North Caulfield Fairfield Park Sun 11 Sep KO 3:00PM Kingston City v Berwick City The Grange Reserve Mon 12 Sep KO 8:30PM

Provi NW 1 Corio v Surf Coast Hume Reserve, Geelong FC Strathmore v South Yarra North City Lions v Essendon Utd Wallace Reserve North Sunshine Eagles v Northern Falcons Larissa Reserve Westvale v Western Eagles

Sporting Whittlesea FC v Laverton Park RGC Cook Reserve

Provi SE 1 Beaumaris v Mooroolbark Beaumaris Reserve

Lyndale Utd v Springvale City Monash University v Skye Utd Monash University

Hampton Park United v Old Camberwell Gram

KM Reedy Reserve Old Melburnians v Brandon Park Robert Menzies Res

Sandringham SC v Warragul Utd Spring St Oval

Provi NW 2 Epping City v Bell Park Melbourne City v Elwood City Edwards Reser Melbourne Tornado v Lalor Utd Moreland Utd v Plenty Valley Lions Moomba Park Reserve West Preston v Hoppers Crossing Northern Roosters v Upfield

Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 2 Casey Kings v Riversdale Betula Park Caulfield United Cobras v Ashburton United Boroondara Eagles v Uni. of Melbourne

Endeavour Utd v Monbulk Reema Reserve
Old Carey v Keysborough Seaford Utd v Bayside Argonauts

Avondale Heights v Hume Utd Geelong Rangers v Keilor Park La Trobe University v Sunbury Utd

Maribyrnong Greens v Cairnlea Skinner Reserve Sydenham Park v Whittlesea Utd

Keilor Lodge Reserve Yarraville Glory v Melbourne University Provi SF 3

East Bentleigh v Collingwood City Bailev Reserv Whitehorse Utd v Noble Park White Star Dandenong v Baxter Old Brighton Grammarians v Rowville Fagles

Middle Park FC v Brighton

Albert Park Field 16
Eltham Redbacks v Old Trinity Grammarians Eltham North Reserve Sat 10 Sep KO 7:00PM

Victorian State League Division One



The Westfield Matildas will meet reigning world champions Japan in the third match of their 2012 London Olympic Games Asian qualification campaign on Monday September 5 (KO AEST 5.30pm) at the Shandong Sports Centre, China.

It will be the first time the teams have met since the 2010 AFC Asian Cup semi final, which Australia won 1-0. Japan finished third in the Asian Cup and proved themselves formidable opponents during the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cupthey defeated the USA 3-1 on penalties in the grand final after the teams were deadlocked 2-2 after extra time.

Westfield Matildas Head Coach Tom Sermanni said he was looking forward to the match.

"For many years, we've had an extremely close relationship with Japan, and a strong and friendly rivalry," Sermanni said.

"We always know it's going to be an outstanding game against them and that they're going to test us to our limits," he said. "We have a great deal of respect for Japan and the way they play. I think that respect is mutual."

Japan may have recently been crowned world champions, but the Westfield Matildas have a good track record against them. Of 18 matches played, the Westfield

Matildas have won five and drawn

record against Japan in critical games," Sermanni said. "Hopefully history will repeat itself tomorrow."

Sermanni said he was also interested to see what impact winning the Women's World Cup has had on Japan.

"It will be interesting to see how Japan refocus for the tournament after the elation of winning the Women's World Cup," Sermanni said. "They could either be flying or be flat."

So far, he said, little was separating the top teams in this Olympic qualification tournament.

"The results so far have shown how tight this competition is," Sermanni said. "The games between the top teams have either been drawn or won by a goal. If we can get a result against Japan tomorrow night, it places us in a strong position for Olympic qualification.

The Westfield Matildas will play a total of five matches in 11 days with the teams that finish in the top two qualifying for the 2012 London Olympic Games

The Westfield Matildas were defeated 0-1 in their opening match against DPR Korea and defeated Thailand 5-1 yesterday. They will meet South Korea and China in their final two matches.



SL1 action: Souther Stars' Kieran Fitzgerald and Langy's Boris Ovcin get shirty on Saturday night. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

Southern Stars keeper Robbie Acs gets down low to collect the ball as Langwarrin's Caleb Nicols follows up. The catch up match finished 1-1 as normal State League One fixtures resume this weekend. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY

North Geelong Warriors 2 (M Paleka R

Kurul) FC Bulleen Lions 0, Pascoe Vale 1 (L Flynn) Port Melbourne 2 (N Kalambokis P

> Whittlesea Zebras 1 (S Nicholson) Fawkner Blues 0

Preston Lions 0 Sunshine George Cross 3 (B Devlin B Cogger E Soares)

Western Suburbs 1 (G Di Marco) Altona Magic 2 (K Delev K Delev),

Southern Stars 1 Langwarrin 1

Under 21s: Rd 15: Port Melbourne 0 Fawkner Blues 0, Langwarrin 1 Altona Magic 7 (S Mladenoski J Veljanovski 2 S Dimcevski D Petrovski D Trajceski S Degirmencioglu), Southern Stars 2 Pascoe Vale 1, Sunshine George Cross 1 Western Suburbs 0, FC Bulleen Lions 0 Whittlesea Zebras 3,

SL1 LADDER											
	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts				
Port Melbourne	20	12	5	3	29	17	41				
Whittlesea Z	20	11	5	4	38	22	38				
Southern Stars	20	11	5	4	35	23	38				
Pascoe Vale	20	9	2	9	35	25	29				
Altona Magic	20	9	5	6	32	27	29				
North Geelong	20	8	2	10	28	33	26				
Bulleen Lions	20	7	4	9	24	24	25				
Sun George X	20	7	4	9	26	29	25				
Langwarrin	20	6	6	8	28	32	24				
Western Sub	20	7	2	11	23	38	23				
Fawkner Blues	20	6	3	11	20	23	21				
Preston Lions	20	4	3	13	23	48	15				

SL1 Next Round

North Geelong Warrior v Altona Magic Fri 9 Sep 11 8:30PM

Pascoe Vale v Langwarrin Hosken Reserve Sat 10 Sep 11 3:00PM

Southern Stars v FC Bulleen Lions Kingston Heath Soc. Sat 10 Sep 11 7:00PM

Whittlesea Zebras v Sun George Cross Epping Soccer Stadium Sun 11 Sep 11 3:00PM

Preston Lions v Port Melbourne BT Connor Reserve Sun 11 Sep 11 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Fawkner Blues Ralph Reserve Sun 11 Sep 11 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	Р	VV	ט	_	г	А	Pts
ulleen Lions	20	14	2	4	68	20	44
awkner Blues	20	11	5	4	43	28	38
outhern Stars	20	12	2	6	51	37	38
ascoe Vale	20	12	1	7	45	37	37
estern Sub	20	10	2	8	37	44	32
orth Geelong	19	9	3	7	33	23	30
hittlesea Z	20	9	3	8	37	34	30
angwarrin	20	7	2	11	29	57	23
ort Melbourne	20	5	5	10	26	40	20
un George X	20	6	2	12	36	52	20
tona Magic	20	5	3	12	33	42	15
eston Lions	19	3	2	14	26	50	11

Heart names Youth squad for 2011/12

Melbourne Heart FC National Youth League (NYL) Head Coach John Aloisi has unveiled his squad of future stars as the Club announced ParkTrent as the team's inaugural sponsor.

Following a nationwide search. involving trials for nearly 500 local players, the announcement of the NYL squad marks a major milestone in Melbourne Heart FC history, heralding a new era for the Red and White as it lays the foundation of a crucial development pathway.

With players hailing from areas such as Tasmania. Alburv Wodonga, Ballarat and Bendigo in the squad, Heart's youth side provides a genuine representation of the emerging talent of Australia's Southern states providing an affirmation of the Club's commitment to developing youth.

And given the squad has been built on the basis of Melbourne Heart FC's preferred football philosophy, developed upon Head Coach John van 't Schip's two decades of experience at Ajax,

the NYL side is set to be key contributor of talent to the first team in the years to come.

NYL Head Coach John Aloisi said Thursday's announcement marked the culmination of a significant and extensive search for the best talent Victoria and Tasmania have to offer.

After 10 months of searching, local trials and watching matches at state level along with our (Head Coach) John van 't Schip, and (General Manager, Football) John Didulica, it's exciting to finally have a squad together. it," he said.

"While we now have the talent he said. in place, the challenge is to furfirst team contributors."

the company's continued dedica- committed to all aspects of the



(Assistant Coach) Ante Milicic Back street boys: John Alois will prepare for the NYL with his hand picked squad.

"We are delighted to announce We are really looking forward to the largest ever National Youth League corporate partnership,"

"Ron Cross of ParkTrent has ther assist in the development of a demonstrated commitment these young players and assist of over 20 years to youth team in their transition from promising sponsorship, and I'm so delightyoungsters into potential future ed to have such a great figure

involved." Chief Executive Officer Scott ParkTrent is a well established Munn expressed his delight at company for property investthe confirmation of Park Trent as ment in Australia established the NYL team's sponsor, praising by Ron Cross in 1989 and is

property market.

As a comprehensive group of companies, ParkTrent offers the convenience of the full range of services required to buy and sell

NYL Squad Information

Head Coach: John Aloisi Assistant Coach: Arthur Papas

Players: Alon Blumgart, Dusan Bosnjak, Craig Goodwin, Charlie King, Kristian Konstantinidis Billy Liolios, Philip Petreski, Brad Treloar, Jeremy Walker.

Daniel Quinn's Rising Star Updates

Mattei Crosses The City Divide

Sebastian Mattei who was released by Melbourne Victory a few weeks ago has reportedly joined Melbourne Heart for their National Youth League squad.

John Didulica the General Manager of Football announced on Twitter that "Some players couldn't make it to launch today but their names will be released in the coming weeks." This was tweeted on September the 1st. The following day it was reported that Mattei had swapped

Mattei played for Victory's NYL squad in the 2008/09 and 2009/10 seasons. Mattei has however been unsuccessful in making an appearance for Victory senior team. Tando Velaphi is the current number one and with Victory still looking for another Keeper Mattei's chances were slim.

Questioned in the Rising Star's first edition Mattei responded with "I'd probably be bumped down. I'd probably have to look for another club." Which has exactly what

has happened. With Melbourne Heart looking for a backup Keeper to Clint Bolton and a Keeper for their inaugural NYL squad it seems Mattei has won the race. Many other Keepers were trialled including Victorian Goalkeep-

er of the year Griffin McMaster.

With Oakleigh Cannons Captain Peter Zois happy to stay at Heart as Goalkeeper coach it looks like Mattei has won the race as the backup and NYL keeper. However it seems Heart's chase for Keeper's is not over with Thomas Dunn from North Geelong Warriors and Codey Larkin also linked to Heart for their NYL team.

Nick Ansell Suffers Another Set Back

Last week's Rising Star Nick Ansell has had surgery this week to clean his knee up. The surgery was done at Vimy House Private Hospital in the Melbourne Suburb of Kew.

The knee operation is set to put Nick back four weeks. An operation which was probably done at the right time. Nick However will be behind the rest of his team mates in pre season but is hopeful he will be back for the start of the National Youth League (NYL) and A-League season.

The surgery is just one of many injuries Nick has had to deal with in his short career. He suffered a six month ankle injury which meant he missed Australian Instituted of Sport (AIS) trials but thanks to Melbourne Victory he was still able to sign a Professional deal with then Ernie Merrick's side.



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South Melbourne wins its first WPL Grand Final

SOUTH MELBOURNE

SOUTH RELBOURNE

SANDRINGHAM



1

3y Niki Cool

South Melbourne Women's won its first Pelada Women's Premier League title with a 2-1 victory over Sandringham in the WPL Grand Final at AAMI Park on Saturday.

The triumph capped off a fantastic week for South, which had started on Monday night with striker Laura Spiranovic adding the Gold Medal to her Golden Boot award, and Alan Davidson being named WPL Coach of the Year.

Brazilian Marcela Marques was the heroine for South with two goals, one in each half, while Ashley Brown was on target for Sandringham.

Warm, breezy conditions greeted the two teams as they emerged into the AAMI Park sunshine for the season decider. With both teams participating in their inaugural Grand Final, there were bound to be nerves among the players, and this resulted in a match that was somewhat tentative at times, as the sides tried to rise to the occasion.

Sandringham almost opened the scoring in bizarre fashion in the opening minutes of the match. Breaking down the left, a speculative high looping cross-shot was hit in the general direction of the South goal. The trajectory of the sharply dropping ball was such that it almost dipped under the crossbar, but South custodian Sarah McKeon was on hand to palm the ball down and avert the danger.

South had the ascendancy in the early stages of the game, and it began to threaten the Sandringham penalty area through long balls in the direction of Laura Spiranovic and Genia Avram. However, it was Sandringham that opened the scoring, against the run of play in the ninth minute of the match.

Emma Runnalls picked up the ball on the left flank and her deft turn created sufficient space to hit a beautiful diagonal ball across the field to the top of the penalty area. The ball was met by the run of Ashley Brown, who took a touch before shooting across the goal. McKeon was able to get her fingertips to the shot, but was unable to prevent it nestling in the bottom corner of the net, much to the delight of the Sandringham supporters.

Despite the early setback, South continued to push forward, and it was rewarded with an equaliser in the 20th minute. Laura Spiranovic was released down the right, and she squared the ball across the face of goal from close to the goal line. Marcela Marques drifted in at the near post, and nudged the ball into the net from a tight angle to level the



Natalie Brajanovski (South) and Michelle Parton (Sandringham) go to battle for WPL supremacy. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



to be the match-winning goal. Spira-

novic, who was looking increasingly

dangerous as the game progressed,

broke down the left and whipped

the ball in from the by-line. Margues

again made a near post run, and got

the slightest of touches to the bounc-

ing ball. The shot lacked any real

power, but seemed to catch Horman

by surprise, and the ball squirted

through her hands towards the net.

She made a desperate attempt to

claw the ball back, but the assistant

referee indicated that the ball had

crossed the line and the goal was

With time running out, Sandringham began to push forward with increasing frequency, as it went in search of an equaliser. Brown was looking dangerous for the minor premier, and she forced a smart save out of McKeon thirteen minutes from time. The last ten minutes of the match featured some real backs to the wall defending from the South backline, as Sandringham threw everything at them. It seemed almost certain that Sandringham would score, such was the ferocity and frequency of its attacks, but a combination of desperate defence and a lack of composure with the final ball ensured that the South goal remained unbreached in the second half.

After an agonising three minutes of added time, the final whistle went, sending the South players and large supporter group into raptures as it heralded the club's first WPL title. Sandringham's Michelle Parton was adjudged best afield, a reward for her hard running and determined tackling in midfield throughout the match.

While perhaps lacking some of the high quality skill on show in some of the other recent encounters between these two sides, the match was a fittingly close affair. Having missed out on the minor premiership to Sandringham in the final round of the season, South claimed the more memorable of the two titles, with captain Amelia Spiranovic lifting the trophy to confirm her team as the 2011 WPL Premiers.

On behalf of everyone at GW, congratulations to Niki Cook who not only is our resident WPL reporter but also plays for the newly crowned Victorian queens of football, South Melbourne. Well done!



Top of the world! South Melbourne WFC finally break the WPL stranglehold which was ruled with an iron fist by Box Hill (and to a lesser extent Heidelberg United) for the best part of a decade. May a new era begin.... Photo: DANIEL FLIS

scores

The South fans were on their feet again ten minutes before the interval when Spiranovic's shot from the left of the area appeared to have found the net. The celebrations proved premature, however, as it was only the side netting that the ball had hit. Sandringham also had a good chance just before half time when Stephanie Tanti sent Runnalls through on goal. Unfortunately for her, the speed of the ball was too great, and McKeon went down smartly to smother the potential danger.

The teams entered the half time break all square at one goal apiece, which was probably a fair reflection of the opening 45 minutes. South had just shaded things in terms of possession, but Sandringham looked dangerous on the counter attack, as it sought to replicate the diagonal ball that had produced its opening goal. The early exchanges of the second period passed without significant incident, the first real chance of the half coming just after the hour mark.

South was awarded a free kick

to the left of the penalty area after Brown had fouled Spiranovic, for which she received the game's only yellow card. Tiffany Eliadis struck a perfect shot over the Sandringham wall and towards the top left corner of the goal, but goalkeeper Peta Horman was equal to the challenge, tipping the ball onto the bar to deny her. The ball rebounded dangerously into the penalty area, but the Sandringham defence was able to scramble the ball to safety.

Seven minutes after the Eliadis chance, South scored what proved

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alanic

S GREEN GULLY

- Nikola Roganovic 7.5 Had a solid game making important saves when called upon, with his quick reflexes and dominance in the air.
- 2. Daniel Jones 6 The tall centre half's performance blew hot and cold. Passing was inconsistent, sprinkled with great balls and others inaccurate.
- 3. Dean Kerr 5.5 Had a decent game in the attacking half from left fullback, but his performance in the defensive third was ordinary as tackles and headers were not up to the standard
- 4. Cameron Drake 7 The right sided defender put in some good crosses, including the cross which resulted in Hamid Basma's winner in Extra-time. His left foot however let him down.
- **6. Stephen Downes 8.5 -** Won the Jimmy Rooney Medal for best on ground. Was very good in tight spaces with his dribbling and turning and also had the shot which came off the post which Fleming put away.
- 7. Jeffrey Fleming 7.3 Had a great game in the deep midfield position. Scored the first goal of the game via a deflection which resulted in a yellow card. Like in recent games his passing and turning in the midfield was key.
- 10. Graham Hockless 6.5 Was in charge of all the set pieces which caused the Cannons defence some problems. He made some good through balls which gave Gully chances. However he was taken off on 67 minutes with a possible ankle injury.
- 12. Mathew Sanders 6 The Colonel started as the central striker but failed to impress. In the second-half was moved to the Left Wing but didn't improve too much. He was also booked for an altercation with Tavsancioglu.
- 16. Mile Medjedovic 7.2 Big Mile was key in Hamid Basma's first goal as a brilliant pass let Basma cut in from the left to slot the ball home. He also had a volley from outside the box just go wide.
- 17. Andy Vargas 6.5 Gully's versatile midfielder started out wide where he got a good driven cross into the box however Nikolic couldn't get there in time. After Hockless' injury he moved into the centre before being substituted for Munoz.
- 18. Joel Nikolic 6 Seemed to play out wide instead of his preferred central position. Had some good headers but was substituted for Hamid Raema at half time.

Substitutes:

- **8.Jason Hayne 7.3 -** Came on for the injured Hockless on 67 minutes and played on the right wing. He had a shot after cutting in from the left saved by Cannons' Keeper Peter **7**ois
- 15. Hamid Basma 8.5 Came on at half-time for Joel Nikolic and scored with a great finish to make it 2-2. His second goal came in Extratime after Tavsancioglu's missed clearance. He was lacking match fitness which showed in Extra-time as he cramped up badly.
- 19. Johnathan Munoz 6.5 Came on for Andy Vargas after 75 minutes and had a brilliant free-kick saved by Peter Zois.



Green with envy! Gully's Jeff Fleming and Ian Dobson make it a VPL Minor Premiership and Championship Double. A Mirabella Cup triumph could make it a unique treble. This was Dobson's 9th career title . Dobson's total title haul includes Melbourne Knights - NSL 1995/96; Altona Magic - VPL 1995 & 1997; Green Gully - VPL 1999, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2010 and 2011. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Frank Lagana flies high for the Cannons as Aris Drakos and Andy Vargas look on. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Jimmy Rooney Medalist, Stephen Downes, with the man himself. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



OAKLEIGH CANNONS

- Peter Zois -7.4 Had a great game as he made some great saves, punches and catches.
- 7. Bonel Obradovic 6.8 Had a decent game down the right side with some good runs but a poor shot and awful first touch let bim down.
- **2. James Cummings 6.5 -** Had a decent game where he was strong in their air.
- 6. Ramazan Tavsancioglu 5.5 Made some good passes but was crucial in Green Gully's winner as he missed his clearance which Basma slotted it into the net.
- 20. Aristios Drakos 6 Had a decent game where he made some decent crosses down the left side.

12. LukeWalker - 6.5 - The versatile Mid-

- fielder had a decent game where he was strong in the air and showed some good closing down.

 A Ante Cical 6 Was not involved much
- 4. Ante Cicak 6 Was not involved much and hence was substituted for Joshua Groenewald
- **16. Frankie Lagana 7.2 -** Was one of Oakleigh's impressive players as he had some shots, good passes. Also had a header disallowed in Extra-time which nearly proved pivitol.
- 21. Hayden Doyle -7.0 Score the equaliser for Oakleigh as he was played in by Diaco. Finished nicely. Had some good shot which the opposition Keeper saved well.
- James Robinson 6.0 Wasn't involved much but he did make some good powerful runs.
- 10. Ricky Diaco 8 Despite not fully fit was one of the best players on ground. Scored a great goal after turning inside and losing two defenders. Passed brilliantly for Doyle to score the equaliser and also executed some great through balls.

Substitutes

- 15. Joshua Groenewald 5.5 Found the going tough up alone as the central striker after Diaco was replaced. Made some poor decisions and was lucky not to get in the ref's bad books on a couple times.
- **25.** Craig Goodwin N/A Scored timely winning goals the last few weeks but just couldn't make the same impact on this ocassion as a late supersub.
- **17. Shaun Ontong N/A -** Couldn't make any impact as he was a late substitute.



The Cannons bench rejoice with Ricky Diaco, who scored a fine individual goal to put his team ahead 2-1. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



To the victor the spoils: Green Gully president Charles Farrugia gets a celebratory hug from Ian Dobson. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Oakleigh Cannons are left to ponder what could have been. Mirabella Cup revenge perhaps? Photo: ANITA MILAS

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



3

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



2

Match Detail

Green Gully:

1. Nikola Roganovic, 2. Daniel Jones, 3. Dean Kerr, 4. Cameron Drake, 6. Stephen Downes, 7. Jeffrey Fleming, 10. Graham Hockless(8. Jason Ayne 66'), 12. Matthew Sanders, 16. Mile Medjedovic, 17. Andy Vargas(19. Johnathon Munoz 75'), 18. Joel Nikolic (15. Hamid Basma 46').

Subs: 23. Mason Interlandi, 11. Pasquale Vizzari.

Goals: Fleming 23', Basma 52' 95'

Oakleigh:

1. Peter Zois, 2. Jamie Cummings, 4. Ante Cicak(15. Josh Groenwald 52'), 6. Ramazan Tavsancioglu, 7. Bonel Obradovic, 8. James RobiNson, 10. Ricky Diaco(25. Craig Goodwin 84'), 12. Luke Walker, 16. Frankie Lagana, 20. Aristidis Drakos, 21. Hayden Doyle(17. Shaun Ontong 89')

Subs: 35. Daniel Neesham, 23. Anthony Bran.

Goals: Doyle 25', Diaco 30

Man Of The Match:

Stephen Downes (GG)

Venue: AAMI Park Crowd: 3200

Green Gully captures record 9th VPL title

By Sacha Pisani

Green Gully were crowned Alanic Victorian Premier League Champions for a second consecutive year after overcoming a gallant Oakleigh Cannons 3-2 infront of more than 3200 fans at AAMI Park on Saturday night.

Super-sub Hamid Basma's 95th minute goal in extra time proved the difference as Green Gully landed a record-breaking 9th Premier League title.

It was Oakleigh who started the stronger, with former Melbourne Victory striker Ricky Diaco coming within a whisker of giving the Cannons an early lead after his attempt on goal hit the post.

The game opened up after Diaco's effort and despite Oakleigh holding a slight advantage in possession, Green Gully illustrated their wealth of experience to take the lead through captain Jeffrey Fleming in the 23rd minute.

Gully midfielder Stephen Downes went on a dazzling run from the centre of midfield and unleashed a beautifully curled shot that thumped against the bar. The ball fell into the path of Fleming and thanks to a slight deflection, put the ball passed a helpless Peter Zois.

Gully's lead would be short-lived as Oakleigh hit straight back through Hayden Doyle to cancel out Fleming's effort. The former Bentleigh winger found space in the penalty area to slot the ball home through the legs of Nikola Roganovic and restore parity in the 25th minute.

The action was end to end and Joel Nikolic came awfully close to re-establishing Gully's lead following some great play out-wide from Andy Vargas. Space opened up for Vargas to attack and his shot-come-cross found Nikolic at the far post but his effort was well blocked by Bonel Obradovic.

Diaco was a class above at times in the first half and he showed fans why he was a Melbourne Victory player with a wonderfully taken goal in the 30th minute.

The Cannons striker turned the Gully defence inside out, outmuscled his opponent and then calmly placed the ball past Roganovic to give Oakleigh the lead for the first time in the game.

The score remained the same at the end of the first forty-five and the Cannons began the second half just as they began the first.

A surging run from Ramazan Tavsancioglu out of defence set up Doyle but his shot went over the bar.

Ian Dobson introduced Hamid Basma at the break and he repaid his coach's faith, equalising for Green Gully from a tight angle in the 52nd minute.

Green Gully enjoyed more possession following Basma's equaliser and tested Zois on a number of occasions but the score remained deadlocked at the end of 90 minutes.

It was not long before Green Gully had one hand on the trophy after super-sub Basma found the back of the net in the 5th minute of extra time. Johnathon Munoz whipped in a low cross into a penalty area that found Basma unmarked at the back post and he slammed the ball home from point blank range.

With only minutes remaining Frankie Lagana thought he had equalised for his side, only for the assistant to rule the goal out for offside.

That would be the last chance for Arthur Papas' men to salvage anything from the game as 2011 Referee of the year Lucien Laverdure blew an end to proceedings.



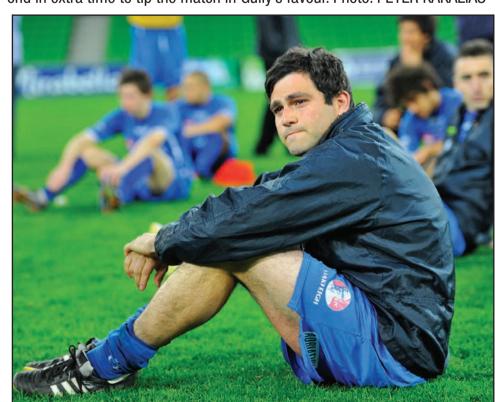
Jeff Fleming gets the show on the road in an eventful opening stanza. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Hammered No 2!! Hamid Basma is the hero of the hour and scores his second in extra time to tip the match in Gully's favour. Photo: PETER KAKALIAS

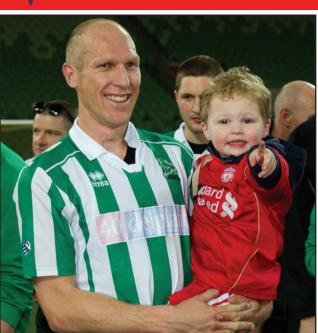


Hammered No 1! Supersub Hamid Basma turns the game on its head and scores within minutes of coming on the pitch. Photo:DANIEL FLIS



Oakleigh's Ricky Diaco gave his all and it all could have so easily gone the other way in such a pulsating match. Photo: PETER KAKALIAS

Monday 5th September 2011



Gully captain Jeff Fleming with another prized possession in hand. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Jeff Fleming, Green Gully captain:

2-1 down at half-time and you had a flat patch towards the end of the first-half. What were your thoughts? Did you think they were going to get over you?

Yeah it was tough. In other finals I've played we haven't conceded. I knew we had the quality players to do it and they had the big game the week

Were you worried if the game went longer, into extra-time with fitness? I actually thought we were more confident because they played 120 minutes the week before and we had the week off and were well rested. The subs that came on did well so the game went in our favour the longer the game went.

Back to back titles, the group of boys have stuck together are you hoping the same will be for next vear?

Absolutely. We have a core group of boys who aren't too old, they are in the mid twenties to thirties so there is no reason why we can't keep the group together and we will see what happens next year.

How did you feel in the middle of the park?

It's a big pitch AAMI Park and it's a quality pitch. We felt confident if we kept the ball down and they tried to pressure us as there were some long balls which went over are head but we kept in on the ground which was my instructions for extra-time.

Another goal from you?

Another goal? He booked me for putting my shirt over my head and I haven't scored for two years so I don't know the rules. Yeah another goal I was wrapped.

You have already forgotten the cracker against Springvale? Nah I haven't forgotten, I've got it

What's it like to play in front of a big crowd?

Green Gully do it well, from a Green Gully point of view they really got the juniors involved with the buses which is great. Oakleigh brought their supporters as well and it just adds to the

Green Gully must be an easier place to work at since it's a club where you don't hear about pay issues and off field drama?

Yeah I wouldn't leave. They have looked after me for eleven seasons now on and off the park. I've been lucky not to be at other clubs and hear the problems off the field. I just wouldn't leave because they look after yourself so well.

Arthur Papas, Oakleigh coach So close and so far Arthur?

Yeah definitely, a really competitive finals match today. Green Gully got in front early. The character of our guys to get back to 2-1 before half-time and they really made a push for it in the second-half Green Gully especially early on and got back to 2-2 and at that stage we were quite concerned. We have had a very difficult four weeks. Every game has been played right to the last minute and you can seen that with some of boys physically. it was very difficult like I said it's been a long four weeks. But credit to them I thought we controlled the game again, we had good chances, games are decided by the details. You make a mistake on the backline in extra-time. you conceded. I don't know if Frankie's goal was offside or not but to be honest we have had calls go our way this year so it's not about offside etc. We are very proud of what we have achieved this year.

As the game went on and some of Gully's boys went down were you more confident as they game went? Like I said it would always be decided by the details. When they brought on Jason Havne on, he is a very good player at this level and you can see the problems he caused. So is though Hamid Basma, he scored two goals but it's not like he's outstanding, why he scores his goals. It could have gone either way. It was really a game that was decided by details.

Diaco came off mid way through the second. Was that injury or was that fitness?

Definitely injury. We have carried a couple players last few weeks. The options were if Ricky doesn't start we have Shaun Ontong with already a question mark and we really pushed to get some game time out of him today. If you have two players on the bench who have question marks and if you bring them on and they have to come off then that really throws everything up in the air. So I said to Ricky if it was thirty, sixty. I thought you saw Ricky really turn it on today. He has had a great season, it's his best season in four or so years so yeah so there is no one who hasn't given anything today.

Are you back for next year Arthur? Is that been decided?

No I won't be back next year. I spoke to the boys just after the game. Yeah I'll be moving to Melbourne Heart to work with John Aloisi also to do the performance analysis for the senior team. Yeah, it has been a great first year as a coach and I said to the boys inside, yeah I know it feels like we have lost but in the end of the day we are winners. We are winners because it's the highest position the club has ever finished. We have four players on the field who were from last year's team and I spoke to you early in the pre-season about how things have to change dramatically and to get to this day and to get beaten by a very good team. Take your hat off to Green Gully, they are a fantastic team that's why they are here two years in a row.

You must be pleased to join Heart with John Aloisi?

Look I'm pleased to work in a professional environment. Coming from the AIS and I know I am a very young coach but I have had some very good experiences as a coach and working in a professional environments and you miss that a bit. The nine to five, sort of late nights where you don't get any days to yourself. Being in a professional environment I can still develop as a coach. I think I can offer a lot to John Aloisi and Melbourne Heart as much as they can offer to me

Are you taking any players with you

Craig Goodwin and Jeremy Walker have been put on youth contracts but they are not necessarily my decisions. They are just players that I really believe in and that have tried to expose this year.

Any others?

Ian Dobson, Green Gully coach

game. What did you think of it? I thought in the first half we had a lot of defensive problems despite taking the lead. We also had problems up front where we didn't hold up the ball enough. Oakleigh played the team that we thought but I think they had a better first-half and deserved to be 2-1 up at half-time. The three substitutes Jason Havne, Hamid Basma and Johnathan Munoz have all been injured and I didn't want to bring them on so early but we had too because of problems in certain areas. Then we started to dictate the play in the second-half and play the ball down like I wanted them to. In extra-time it comes down to a battle of wills and strengths and

who comes down to who takes their

It was a bit of a rollercoaster of a

opportunities and they pushed after we got that vital third goal.

What was your message to the players at half-time?

I specifically targeted individuals in the group. I gave them constructive criticism where I told them what they shouldn't be doing and what they need to do to fix that. Are full backs where too deep, Diaco gave Mile and Jones some trouble and they were too deep in that area. Up front with Matt Saunders and Joel Nikolic were not holding up the ball and the ball was just coming back and the dominated possession and we had to fix those

Year after year you win title after title. Do you still have ambitions to be at a higher level?

As a coach you always have ambitions but for its weather it will happen for me. All I can do is win championships year after year. FFA want to promote former International players to coaches and the A-League and I can't do much about it. That is how is it.

Hamid Basma was the key substitution at half-time. Why did you make that change?

We weren't holding up the ball up front. Hamid hadn't played for eight weeks and we had to bring him on early even though if it went to extra-time we knew we would have problems about stamina and fitness You throw your cards into the ring and it worked for us.

Next year?

I don't know.

Peter Zois, Oakleigh captain

How are the lads at the moment? It wasn't a happy occasion. Everyone was obviously very dejected and very down but also the same time quite positive because we do realise as disappointed as we are and should be, losing today but we do realise that we have come a long way. No one was there in our preseason. You can see how much work has been put in. So to get to this stage and I keep saying it and I think we have three or four players retained from last season to immediately come close to being minor premiers and making a grand final and that in its self is a massive accomplishment and we do realise that but at the same time you lose the grand final. You don't come out here to lose, you come to play. The guys gave everything we had and congratulations to Gully they scored one more than us. If you look at that offside again and it looked questionable but anyway that is the way the ball rolls so they won and we will see next season and hopefully we can go one step better.

Do you know if you are back next year with Oakleigh next year?

Yeah I have no plans to go anywhere, I have no plans. I was at South last year and I was really happy there. I had no reason to leave. I only came to Oakleigh because Arthur came on board. When Arthur had the job basically given to him he called me up and he said what would you do? And I said clearly in full confidence I'm there, I'm your man. I didn't really matter where I went. I followed him and I didn't think I enjoyed it much off the park. The guys there have been absolutely amazing towards me and the other players so I didn't enjoy my time very much and you obviously enjoy your time more



Cannons coach Arthur Papas gives instructions to his troops. Photo: PETER KAKALIAS

when you are winning so we won a lot more this year than they did last year because we were at the top. Yeah so It was a good time and I have no plans

You must be disappointed to lose in extra-time?

Yeah most definitely. They came out and scored goals extremely well I guess. They put the ball into the back of the net which was the aim. If they totally out played us with the goals you can kind of live with it a bit more but from individual mistakes but that is Football I guess. That is how most goals are scored I guess somewhere on the park. Look we had our opportunities as well and that is the way Football goes, it's a team game and you win and lose as a team. It's a cliché as it sounds, it's the way it goes and unfortunately for us it wasn't to be.

You have played overseas and in the A-League. How is the VPL compared to those leagues? Is it improving?

Yeah, I think as the A-League is improving, so would the NSWPL and the VPL as players who miss out for A-League sides drop down to these leagues. The coaches too I believe are becoming more educated and are improving the standard. The standard is quite good and obviously it can improve.

Disappointed that Arthur won't be back next year?

Yeah that is something Arthur needs to make those decisions. He is a very ambitious coach and he has his goals out there. I met him few years ago when I first returned from overseas and to see his progression and development is truly amazing. He has done an absolute remarkable job. There is a good feeling that every time you come to training you want to be on the park and play.

Stephen Downes (Green Gully), Jimmy Rooney Medalist

Obviously you won the medal but how do you rate your own performance today?

Oh, I can't speak about myself. You let other people talk for you. It was a great performance by the lads. They have gone back to back, its quality. How did you feel in the middle of the park?

Yeah it's an awesome surface so it's there to go and play Football. Yeah it's not my natural position. I am a right back. Only since coming here I have been playing in the middle of the park and it's been fantastic since I've been here, the lads are tremendous. The lads were on the knees at the end but we still got through and got the win and that's quality.

How do you rate the crowd?

Oh yeah, they were quality. Making noise in a big stadium is hard to generate a good atmosphere as you can. It was fantastic here. It was a great experience here for me. It's my first season and to come and here it's been quality

Your run for Fleming's goal, did you think it was going in?

No, I'll say no. Yeah we all wish for it to go in but it wasn't to be. We got a goal and that is the main thing. It was a miss-kick. I haven't got that in my locker. It must have bobbled up, it was just a miss-kick.

How did you feel about your own fitness on the bigger ground?

Normally to be fair I've never suffered but I've never experienced that aver before in my life. It was just general fatigue. I was on my knees during extra-time but we got through it which was the main thing.

How was your first season?

Oh yeah. The lads have been fantastic. made me feel welcome, it's been quality and you can't ask for me than that and there are heaps of players here who have fantastic ability and should be playing higher. It's been quality.

Monday 5th September

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Round 18 Wrap

Minnows bite back in NIKE V-League

By Matthew Montgomery

Ashburton FC

Albert Park FC

The opening clash on the round 18 card dished up a bottom of the table clash as 9th placed Ashburton took on Albert Park in last position. Coming back into the Ashburton line up was steely defender Manny Karas and along with him was debutant John Petridis.

Albert Park, almost for the first time in a long time fielded a full strength squad with a list of seven players. Coming into the side was bean-pole striker, Mili Muratbegovic and former Balwyn player - in the State League - Matt Italiano

The first half opened up with Ashburton's Talisman, James Blackburn who was on hand to put away a poor clearance from Albert Park keeper, Kurt Fanourakis. Blackburn's partner in crime - Dima Nichiforenco - went close to doubling their lead, only to be denied by the left post.

Then in a surprising turn of events, Albert Park took the lead through Felipe Rilling and Mili Muratbegovic who showed what they were capable of with brilliant individual efforts.

Albert Park's good fortune continued into the second half, as second gamer, Nathan Long's shot took a wicked deflection off Moe Alghorabi and caught Ashburton keeper, Jamie Tran, completely off guard. Manny Karas, almost through pure frustration, barraged toward the Albert Park goal and blasted through Fanourakis' legs making it 3-2 mid way through the half.

But from that point on that was as good as it got for Ashburton who are in a real mess at the moment. Nathan Long was again in the thick of the action as he struck the foot of the post and Rilling, who was set up for an open goal by Rodrigo, struck the crossbar. But to clinch the points, Rodrigo completed a quick 1-2 with Matt Italiano to make it 4-2 and earn only their second win for the season.

It just keeps getting worse for Ashburton who have not had a win for seven consecutive games, while Albert Park have found some rare form ahead of their 'winnable' game against Essendon next week

FC Prahran

Fitzroy FC

The next game that the healthy crowd were treated with was between 4th placed Fitzroy and 5th placed Prahran. Fitzroy, after their narrow 7-5 win over

Essendon last week welcomed back utility, Jack Dalla Via back into the line-up, while Prahran's regular keeper from last season, Dima Shakhanov returned in between the sticks after months on the sideline. Michael Chami, this seasons regular keeper was left to man the pine as back up. Fitzroy were the more fired up of the two teams as they raced to a 3-0 lead, exposing the cobwebs that were still seemingly covering Shakhanov's gloves.

But it was Prahran's mercurial striker. Maxi Avram who got his side back into the game with two quick goals by outsmarting his younger opponents and getting into some good positions. Jack Dalla Via, on his return to V-League action netted the last goal of the half by combining with Johnny Nikolakoudis for a quick 1-2 and then coolly slotted past Shakhanov and made it 4-2 before half time.

Avram scored his third of the game at the opening of the second half with a swift run from defence and slotting from a ridiculous angle past Steve Cuce to give Prahran a fighting chance at 4-3.

Then with a huge slice of fortune, Johnny Nikolakoudis was simply in the right place at the right time as he rebounded in Lucas Johns' long-range strike, reinstating Fitzrov's two goal buffer.

Prahran finally, after peppering the goal



Metro's Alija Redzepovic threads the eye of a needle as Essendon keeper, Anthony Cianflone can only watch.

of Steve Cuce, clawed their way back into the contest levelling at 5-5 with Avram's fourth of the game and Cameron Holmes' first who slotted away from close range.

As the minutes ticked away, both sides pressed for a winner and in the end it was Fitzrov captain Shavan Rashidi who found the back of the net as he ran past Holmes and shot underneath Shakhanov's arm. It was a well earned win for the roys who continue to get the job done week in week out, whereas Prahran look very short on quality (from the bench) in the closing rounds of the season.

The red carding of Marcus Barbosa certainly didn't help their cause this week and Shakhanov will only get better with time. There is hope for the battle hardened shot stopper.

CF Brunswick North Melbourne FC

The glamour clash of the round was, on paper, the encounter between top side North Melbourne and third placed Brunswick.

This was almost the biggest game yet for North as they faced their last 'major' hurdle in their quest for league glory. If they could defeat Brunswick, without dropping a point, then it would be highly likely that the 2011 title would be draped in dark blue and black come

For the big game, North had no omissions from last week but added striker Alex Jankovic. Brunswick, who were looking for a big showing after last week's draw with Hume added their star player, playmaker and Futsalroo in Danny Ngaluafe. Brunswick started on the back foot as North called keeper Brendan Chen into action very early on.

Chen was lucky to keep a clean sheet as Fernando De Moraes hit the right post, but you can only keep Australia's best player goal-less for so long, as moments later he gave North the lead with a wicked strike over Chen's head.

Dark Blues target man, Mirza Pedic, soon doubled his sides lead as he saw Chen off his line in no-man's land and struck past him with ease. In a moment of managerial genius, Brunswick manager, Nikos Ignatiadis put on his star forward, Munya Nyadzayo just minutes before half time to have almost an immediate impact as he struck past keeper, Christos Apostolakis from a tight angle to send his bench and the crowd into raptures.

There was a great sense of belief within the Brunswick camp going into the second half, and they almost capitalised on their window of opportunity as Munya struck the left post, which North failed to clear properly, resulting in the ball then falling to the feet of Damir Marusic whose strike rattled the other post and rolled safely into the arms of Christos breathing a little sigh of relief. Then, in an act of pure desperation, reds

captain, Mathieu Piga threw himself at a loose ball that was rolling out of play to land perfectly at the feet of Munya who was able to slot into an open net and level the game at 2-2. It was a great piece of leadership by

the hardened captain. But the equalising goal seemed to really put North into another gear - or put Fernando into another gear - as their most valuable player, Fernando gave them back the lead with a strike into the top corner and then set up Pedic in the "D" to seal the three points and even possibly the 2011 title?

It was a brave performance by Brunswick who fought for the entire duration of the game, but in the end the quality of North was too overwhelming for the leagues third ranked side.

Metropolitan FC

The game that was to follow the top four blockbuster was the 6th placed side in Metropolitan and Essendon in 7th.

Essendon regained regular keeper in Anthony Cianflone, while Metropolitan had no new inclusions, yet lost striker Ivan Zilic due to work commitments.

The first half began with Essendon's Lubomir Erakovic missing an open goal as he blasted over the bar from close range, he was to be left ruing his golden opportunity as Metro then went 2-0 up in a matter of minutes through Jusuf Avdic and Tomo Grgic. Robert Shekari's long range strike which hit the outside of the left post from distance almost pegged a goal back, but again it was Metro who had the finishing touch as Avdic bagged his second with an absolute thumper from the right side line and Dino Redzepovic's back post tap in made it 4-0.

The sky Blues were completely dominating their opponents as Grgic and Dino were both denied by the crossbar late in

The only other real action Metro keep er, Yane Coceski had to do was a quick scramble to his goal line for a last ditch save of Hooman Shekari's strike - which he got to quite easily in the end.

The second half saw more domination by last seasons league and cup runnersup, as the Metro lads scored the opening

three goals through Avdic - for his third thumper - Dino and Alija Redzepovic. Alex Stevanovic who was being shut out of the game, pulled one back for

Prahran.

fourth goal of the game brought the reds back down to earth. Essendon were finally put out of their misery when Grgic and Alija both completed their braces for the game and

his side making it 7-1 as he was left

unmarked at the back post, but Avdic's

Fitzroy's captain, Shayan Rashidi (R)

leads by example for his young side

as he scored the late winner against

also completing the 10-1 score line – a margin that no one would have guessed before kick off! With that win, Metro climb back to the position they should have been around all season - 5th - and Essendon who

seem to look fresh out of ideas will have to regroup before their massive clash against a resurgent Albert Park next week, and with 22 points and four games remaining, safety is not assured for the reds by any means!

FC Melbourne **Hume FC**

The final encounter of the night saw 8th side Hume pitted against a Melbourne side who are sitting just above the direct relegation spot in 11th.

Hume, who were unlucky not to defeat Brunswick last week injected a few new faces into their line-up as regular keeper, Con Makris, defenders George Harrison and Enrique Iglesias and debutant Sacid Cicek all featured.

Melbourne on the other hand who have been struggling for goals and motivation in the past few weeks were without striker David Fletcher, but in his place came first gamer Christian Safko. Melbourne got off to a flying start as defender, Mus Elorr streamed forward from defence and smashed his toe poke underneath keeper, Con Makris and against the right

After a long period of both sides trying to gain possession, Melbourne player/ manager Chris Gospel broke the dead lock with a perfectly timed strike which just beat Makris on the inside of the right post and gave his side a valuable lead

Melbourne keeper, Harry Kitharidis then made two top shelf saves before turning Haider Noor's strike onto the cross bar, still maintaining the dark blues slender lead. Then to complete the scoring for the

first half, Mus Elorr claimed Melbourne's second when he hit his toe poke straight at Makris who got a hand on the ball but was unable to keep the ball out Hume raced out of the starting blocks

and into the second half as Mehmet Par-



us where his side may end up come seasons end as they overcame a determined Brunswick outfit.



Melbourne's Dominik Rafati (L) had his best game of the season as he played a shut-down role on Hume's Haider Nooi (R) who he kept goal-less.

lak got forward and hit the left post, than seconds after, George Harrison missed an open goal and hit the right post. To rub a bit of salt into the wound, Elias Stavridis made it 3-0 as he completed a neat 1-2 with Lee Dore to slot into an unattended net. When Dominik Rafati hand-balled

in the "D" to gift Hume a penalty, it seemed that the favourites would peg a goal back, but Kitharidis dove the right way and pulled off a miraculous save. It would be minutes until Hume got their first goal, but when they did, it was a goal of pure quality! Enrique Iglesias, with a dashing run from defence blasted his toe poke from half way and into the top corner of the Melbourne net.

Diego Assaeda then made it 3-2 soon after with a cheeky shot with the outside of the right foot which bobbled past Kitharidis. Lee Dore soon restored a comfortable two goal cushion for Melbourne when he was able to get around Parlak and blasted past second Hume keeper Fethi Goren.

To make for a nervy ending, Iglesias bagged his second of the game as he slotted from close range, but the biggest heart-stopper came from the second penalty spot, only 30 seconds from fulltime and Hume where a goal down, Iglesias had a golden opportunity to level the game and salvage a point, but it was not to be a Iglesias blasted over.

The missed penalty meant that Melbourne earned a 4-3 win and are now only one point out of the top 8 with a game in hand!

Things are looking up for the dark blues at this point in time - an important time too! Hopefully they can continue and give the cup a red hot shake.

Pascoe Vale FC FC Balwyn

Unfortunately the game between Pascoe Vale and Balwyn could not take place on Wednesday night.

A rescheduled time slot will be reached by the NIKE V-League commission within the next few days, as the 11th placed side, Balwyn try to overcome the juggernaut that is Pascoe Vale who currently sitting 8 points behind ladder leaders North Melbourne. Balwyn will also be desperate to claim the three points off Pascoe Vale as they have found themselves in a rugged relegation battle where they are now 3 points behind rivals FC Melbourne and yet a further 4 points away from playing in the FOz Cup. So with both teams vying for glory, it is surely going to be a match played with fierce intensity.

V-League Standings

1 Nth Melbourne FC 18 17 1 0 134 59 75 52 2 Pascoe Vale FC 17 14 2 1 108 40 68 44 3 Fitzroy FC 18 11 1 6 99 87 12 34 18 10 2 6 105 87 18 32 4 CF Brunswick 5 Metropolitan FC 9 2 6 103 91 12 29 18 8 2 8 108 89 19 26 6 FC Prahran 7 FC Essendon 7 1 10 96 137 -41 22 5 2 10 83 100 -17 17 8 Hume FC 9 Ashburton FC 5 2 11 91 115 -24 17 10 FC Melbourne 5 1 12 57 95 -38 16 17 4 1 12 64 84 -20 13 11 FC Balwyn 12 Albert Park FC 18 2 1 15 76 139 -63 7

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS Round 18 Wed Aug 31st

6:30 Ashburton FC v Albert Park FC 7:15 FC Prahran v Fitzroy FC 8:00 CF Brunswick v Nth Melbourne FC 8:45 FC Essendon v Metropolitan FC 2 - 4 1 - 10 9:30 FC Melbourne v Hume FC 4 - 3 TBA Pascoe Vale FC v FC Balwyn

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 19 Wed Sep 7th

6:30 FC Melbourne v Nth Melbourne FC 7:15 FC Prahran v Metropolitan FC 8:00 CF Brunswick v Ashburton FC 8:45 Pascoe Vale FC v Fitzroy FC 9:30 FC Essendon v Albert Park FC 10:15 FC Balwyn v Hume FC

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1) A. Stevanovic FCE 2) M. Avram FCP 3) J. Blackburn AFC 4) A. Redzepovic Metro FC 34 5) M. Nyadzayo CFB

Catch

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FUTSAL VZ

Photos By MATT MONTGOMERY



Monday 5th September

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